



TAYLAN SAHBAZ

Hackney Advice Forum defending independent advice services



CEN

Are you ready for the Commissioning game?



NEWS FROM THE SECTOR

Goodbye to 30 years of Hackney Family Back Up

HCVS magazine for Hackney's voluntary and community sector

SPARK



In this issue:

- CEN influencing partnership working
- ESOL campaign
- Grassroots Grants
- Your opinions on funding cuts

• EDN meeting the primes!

• Introducing Young Hackney

• Looking back at HCVS Grants success

Plus news from your local community group

90% of you said the support from HCVS had made a difference to your organisation

HCVS User Survey 2011

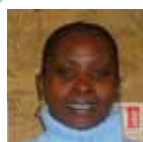
Taking the plunge
creative approaches to fundraising

hcvs: meet our team

Here are details for our team at HCVS. If you have a question about any of our services, please give us a call on 020 7923 1962, email info@hcv.org.uk or drop in to our office at 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street London E8 2LY where you can use our computers for free!

A MASSIVE THANK YOU to Katy Palmer, Liz Hughes, Mubeen Rajabali, Nadia Capogrosso, Victor Momodu, our volunteers Bose Konur, Emine Altun and Peta-Gay Powell who have left HCVS. Their dedication, hard work and contribution to support the sector was crucial and they're all missed. Thanks to the Future Jobs Fund we have six new faces with us for the next eight months - meet them on page 13.

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For alternative providers - check below

- www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crb
- www.businesslink.gov.uk/crb
- www.direct.gov.uk/crb
- or call 0870 90 90 811.

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Spring Issue 2011



Welcome to SPARK, we weren't sure this issue would happen due to cuts but we've managed it. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

You can see the impact of cuts on the sector and the communities we serve. The closure of Hackney Family Back Up after 30 years of services to children with disabilities and their families is a massive blow. HCVS has also been affected by cuts with an 42% reduction in our core contract with Hackney Council and losing £750,000 of grants. So we have had to say goodbye to key people who are already really missed.

We can't ignore what's going on but we included good news from groups who've taken a different approach to fundraising and been successful. This won't solve the problem but gives us all some ideas. Thank you, 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, to submit an article or discuss ideas for upcoming features get in touch. Join our email news service, contact us above.

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).



Fixer Naphtali

ITV Fixers at Hackney City Farm

Naphtali Williams, 17, became an ITV Fixer to create a sustainable, eco-friendly learning area for young farmers at Hackney City Farm. She has transformed the space into a clean, functional and attractive space where young farmers can learn about how to look after animals.

Naphtali is one of over 5,000 volunteers around the country working on ITV Fixers, tackling issues from body image to knife crime, and making a real difference to communities.

She says: "There isn't an allocated space on the farm for young volunteers to work in. We want to learn about mucking out, collecting eggs, feed, maintenance, animal welfare, ecology and environment and the space we've created will allow us to do this." ♦ Katy Palmer

📍 **Hackney City Farm** ☎: 020 729 6381 🌐: www.hackneycityfarm.org.uk

To find out more about ITV Fixers 🌐: www.itvfixers.com

Richard House Children's Hospice, based in Beckton, provides care and support for children of all nationalities with life-limiting, life-threatening and complex healthcare conditions.

Each year it gets more difficult to raise the £3.1m it needs to provide its services, particularly in the face of the tough economic climate.

Major events this year to boost its income are two ladies-only midnight walks. One in The Docklands on Saturday, 25 June, and in Hackney on Saturday, 10 September.

Local women are desperately needed to take part to ensure Richard House gives its children the futures they deserve. ♦

🌐: www.richardhouse.org.uk



SPARKLE: Stand up against street violence

Witness Confident

SPARKLE is a grass-roots campaign to reduce the level of street violence in Hackney & Islington by 20%. Witness Confident came up with the name as it reminds people that if you see street violence the choice isn't between walking on or wading in.

Witness Confident will be promoting the SPARKLE message around the boroughs, piloting an interactive Google map, working with the police and civic leaders, and providing free legal advice to people in the area who witness or are victims of street violence. The response

has been very positive with MPs and local politicians pledging to the campaign.

SPARKLE stands for:

Shout for help

Photo the suspects and the scene

Avoid risking your own safety

Report the crime & use the map

Keep a record of what you saw

Lead by example

Engage with the police. ♦

📍 **Sign up below**

✉: help@witnessconfident.org

🌐: www.witnessconfident.org

CEN: Appeal to people working with children and young people in Hackney!

Have you completed our Children & Young People's Directory?

Toebe Potash, one of our Children & Young People's Providers Forum (CYPPF) reps, says "the Directory really helps me when going to the Children's Trust Boards at Team Hackney - members are always wanting to know who and what services are out there!"

Complete our survey at www.hcvs.org.uk or call us on 020 7923 1962 today.

Disabled children's charity closes after 20 years

Hackney Family Back Up

After more than two decades of providing services for disabled children in Hackney, local charity **Hackney Family Back Up** closed on 31 March. Gillian Goodchild told SPARK, "The respected organisation was set up originally by parents, to provide family-based respite care. Disabled children either enjoyed short breaks in carers' homes or carers known as homesitters took children out and about in the community or provided care in the child's own home.

These services, commissioned by and for social services, ended in 2010, when short break services were re-tendered. Despite positive feedback from parents during the consultation process, HFBU was not re-commissioned to provide these services, on cost grounds.

Since then, HFBU has continued to run other projects for disabled children and their



families, including a specialist toy and resource library, with funding from Hackney, the Primary Care Trust and independent grants.

However, the loss of the short breaks service represented not just the loss of HFBU's core funding, but also the loss of its core purpose. The additional projects have been great, and have served families well, but they are the icing on the cake – without the cake!

In this context HFBU's management committee took

HFBU's Gillian with Thomely Hall

the sad decision that the organisation was no longer viable, with the consequence that HFBU's knowledge, expertise and responsiveness to families is now lost to Hackney."

◆ Katy Palmer

① HCVS is helping **HIP (Hackney Independent Forum for parents / carers of children with disabilities)** fundraise to continue supporting parents and carers of children with disabilities in Hackney. Contact HIP: ✉: info@hiphackney.org.uk

CEN: Children with disabilities from minority ethnic communities are at higher risk of missing out if providers don't work together to raise funds and coordinate what they do

This was the concern from the Children & Young People's Providers Forum, who met to explore how voluntary, community and public sectors could achieve better outcomes for disabled children in Hackney.

Discussions came after recent reductions in short breaks grants and a Scrutiny Committee report which recommended:

– increased communication about what services are on offer to disabled children from all sectors

– raising funds and maximising joint funding opportunities.

Mainstream providers across sectors need to re-package what they do to include children with disabilities.

CYPPF Co-ordinator Kristine said: "We're looking at a date to bring people who offer services to disabled children together so we can co-ordinate what we're doing. Working with disabled children in Hackney? Contact me and we'll get you linked in to this work." ◆

① **Kristine Wellington CYPPF**

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🌐: www.hackneycen.org.uk/cyppf



Step by Step: Services in the Orthodox Jewish community
Photography: info@effiefotaki.com

CEN: Health Funding

Hackney Refugee Forum



Health Advisor Ali, left

Ali Aksoy, Hackney Refugee Forum Co-ordinator updates SPARK on work with our refugee and migrant communities.

"We secured a London Borough of Hackney Community Grant to provide a preventative health and social support programme for refugee and migrant communities living in Hackney.

We can offer health seminars, healthy living sessions, outreach for informative training and regular networking meetings with service providers on burning issues. As well as publicising information on local services and health information.

The Forum have also been coordinating research on Primary Care needs of Asylum Seekers in Hackney together with Hackney LINK, the voice of local residents on health issues. Our volunteers have completed the interviews and delivered questionnaires to LINK which will now be filled in by asylum seekers from different refugee communities.

We're looking forward to analysing any recommendations. We'll use the findings to draw the attention of service providers and stakeholders to asylum seekers' burning and specific primary care problems."

◆ Katy Palmer

📞 Ali Aksoy ☎️: 020 7923 1962

✉️: ali@hcv.org.uk

Borough of Sanctuary launch



Campaign launched to recognise Hackney as a Borough of Sanctuary

We all know that this borough has a rich history of welcoming people from across the world, going back to the seventeenth century when the Huguenots were forced to flee their country for fear of religious persecution and found sanctuary in Hackney. A tradition which has grown and is something of which to be very proud.

Hackney is not alone in this of course. The 'City of Sanctuary' movement was formed to celebrate and to create a network of towns and cities throughout the country which are proud to be places of safety. It began in October 2005 in Sheffield, two years later, the city became the UK's first official 'City of Sanctuary' - one which takes pride in the welcome it offers to people in need of safety.

On Saturday, 12 March at the Arcola Theatre it was Hackney's turn to launch its campaign to become a borough of sanctuary. And what a day it was! We were treated to some wonderful music and delicious food which had taken some dedicated people all night to prepare. We then had the great privilege of hearing some exceptionally inspiring speakers and live poetry from local poet Michael Rosen. The day was given a rousing round-up by Inderjit Bhogal who declared the campaign well and truly launched! ◆
Rebecca Clarkson 📱: Follow on facebook - search for Hackney Borough of Sanctuary

HRF now part of HCVS

HCVS is delighted to announce that Hackney Refugee Forum has come on board as a hosted network. The former board of HRF will become a Steering Group and has a new Chair, Dr Bekele Gessesse.

Critical issues are Hackney Migrant Strategy and securing funding for our vital work with refugee and migrant communities.

Update on Migrant Strategy

The Hackney Migrant Strategy was presented to Team Hackney and received support but members felt they wanted more time to discuss it. It's likely that elements will be incorporated into the Sustainable Community Strategy refresh.

Stay up to date at www.hcv.org.uk or sign up to our emails
✉️: info@hcv.org.uk

OPINION: Young Turkish and Kurdish people and the cuts

As a borough the people of Hackney have been very organised and vocal against the cuts, yet as a member of the Turkish and Kurdish community in Hackney, Ekim Yoca felt that his young peers were not involved enough. He set out to find out what they feel about the cuts and how it affects them.

Nevzat, 25, who is a youth folk dancing teacher at the Refugee Workers' Cultural Association (RWCA) believes that the ghetto effect on the Turkish and Kurdish community isolates them from being vocal together with the rest of the population: "People in my community haven't woken up to the fact that we need to do something about [the cuts]. A lot of the time, we don't know what is going on outside of our ghetto, and many people lack the language to find out what's going on. This is why our community

centres are important for information and organisation."

Dilara, 22, and Semih, 26, have been struggling to find a job for months. "This is the last chance I have to start university [in September] before the fees increase in 2012, but I still have to work either way", said Dilara, who believes that the businesses owned by people in her community are her best chance in finding a job.

Semih, on the other hand, finished his Masters in Design Engineering last year, and has been searching for a job since. "Young people in my community need to encourage other young people and their parents to take part in the fight against these cuts. It's affecting all areas of our lives. A lot of people in my community are aware of what's going on, but when it comes to being active, they don't do anything."



Design Engineer Semih at the cuts rally

I talked to many young people in the Turkish and Kurdish community who felt that mobilising their peers is difficult and that things would have to get worse before they could make a stand. But with greater organisation and larger protests, I believe that the community will play a more active role. ♦

Ekim Yoca is part of HRF and RWCA

OPINION: "Time for grassroots organisations to come together"

SPARK spoke to Thomas Subi from African Support & Project Centre and Hackney Francophone Organisations Network about cuts and the Francophone community.

Local people are suffering as they are unable to access resources in Hackney. Those that do not have English as a first language would usually come to small organisations for assistance with legal problems, filling forms out, liaising with GPs, hospitals or employers and most importantly to learn English. Without this people are missing out on chances to improve their lives.

Cuts to ESOL and Legal Aid mean it will be harder for communities to integrate as their lives will be so different.

Partnership is one solution. If organisations work together,



Thomas and Jules Pipe, Mayor of Hackney

they spend less money doing the same job. It's essential for grassroots organisations in Hackney to come together to share funding and knowledge that benefits local people.

These are very difficult times for community groups, a lot of which run on voluntary work by people who are passionate about their community. Due to constant changes and lack of funding planning is hard, it's as though we can't do anything but wait, which is very unhelpful.

I feel as though the "Big Society" will only destroy the community and hinder people. The Government is not expressing their policy enough to the community. People have limited knowledge about it, thinking it benefits those already in a good position in society and oppresses those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Umbrella organisations can teach small groups about the business side of things to help them survive. A lot of voluntary groups are small and don't know the bigger picture. These groups need to learn how to get the best out of their organisations through training and development provided by organisations like HCVS. ♦

Zareen Islam and Cleopatra Akbulut ⓘ **Thomas Bubi**

✉: africanspc@yahoo.co.uk

ESOL Campaign: More than a chance to learn English

We all need basic English to get a job, explain health problems to our GP, or discuss our child's education at parents evening. But ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) is much more than a chance to learn English. It's the chance to integrate in society, and access employment or skills. In Hackney, where almost a third of the population are migrants, this is especially important.

Hackney Refugee Forum works with migrants who bring with them valuable skills, qualifications and experience. Once in work, despite being low paid and economically vulnerable, these migrants make a huge contribution to Hackney's economy. However these skills will lie untapped if they are unable to learn English hence why they're supporting the Hackney Action for ESOL campaign.

What is the cut?

The Government's main cut is that fully funded ESOL will be only be available for unemployed people on job-seeker's allowance or on employment support allowance, described as 'active benefits'. However, at an Action for ESOL meeting in January, Hackney Community College reported that 95% of their students were not on active benefits - only 5% of their current class will return to lessons if this cut goes ahead.

What can we do?

Join Hackney Action for ESOL - look for them on facebook
Urge the Government to reconsider the approach to ESOL in the 'Investing in Skills for Sustainable Growth' Strategy and sign the online petition www.gopetition.com/petitions/defend-esol.html ♦ Katy Palmer



Women are likely to bit hard by ESOL cuts - Women learning at Hackney Bangladeshi Cultural Association Photography: info@effiefotaki.com

The last Hackney Refugee Forum meeting outlined the effects of the cuts to ESOL.

Alice Robson from The Learning Trust underlined the importance of ESOL to learners and how "being an ESOL learner is a positive identity for people to have," and that, "they won't give it up without a fight." She pointed out that the cuts to ESOL, "will result in more people moving onto job seeker's allowance, but the Job Centre has a narrow employability focus," and that young women with young children are the most affected because they are not actively seeking work because of their care responsibilities.

Sandra Jones from Hackney Community College was also there to show statistics regarding ESOL and stressed that, "we must keep lobbying and focus on the needs of the community".

A range of people from different age groups and backgrounds attended the meeting and expressed their views and experiences as ESOL learners.



Emetullah, 50, (above) an unemployed mother, specifically wanted to go to an ESOL course rather than any other type of course because she felt that she benefited a lot from ESOL before her course was ended due to cuts.

Gulcan, 22, believes that the cuts to ESOL mean that more people will be "disabled" moreover, "they'll be forced into cheap labour; it will affect their psychology and stop them from achieving a decent career."

Felipe, 42, was on 'an ESOL teacher's training course and was halfway through but couldn't complete it because I needed a work placement. I can do voluntary work but I need an official ESOL class run by graduate teachers in order to complete the course.'

♦ Ekim Yoca

Consortia: The only game in town?

At HCVS we've been helping voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations who work in similar or complementary fields to form partnerships or consortia to win local contracts and funding.

We've started supporting VCS organisations working in mental health, disability, youth crime, supplementary schools and with older people because:

- adult social care contracts will be released by Hackney Council over Summer
- we've been given the task of

ensuring as much external funding is drawn into Hackney as possible, in line with the borough's strategic priorities around young people

- public funding for children and young people are looking for more partnership applications.

Stay ahead of the game with City & Hackney Health & Social Care Forum (HSCF) and Safer Young Hackney. See page 16 for Children & Young People's Providers Forum's work.



Young people from North London Muslim Community Centre
Photography: info@katharinegreen.co.uk

All local services funded through adult social care are under review and will be tendered out over the Summer. Before the recession, statutory authorities were clear about reducing the number of contracts with the sector. HSCF has promoted the value of local expertise, experience and the added social value that local groups bring within the tendering process with the Council but this may not level the playing field against large national organisations.

Tenders are likely to be released in larger packages and advertised competitively across the UK. Plus, organisations going for them will need a certain income. These are non-negotiable legal requirements for contracts above £50k per annum.

In practice, small to medium VCS groups will not be able to bid directly to run services similar to those they provide now.

For Hackney and the local VCS this is potentially disastrous. The local sector is not only able to reach people other sectors can't reach - having built up communities' trust and as a large employer of local people, we bring external funding to the borough.

Helping groups get together in consortia to bid for services is one way we can help you continue providing services through social care contracts. This isn't easy, it requires time and negotiation but if we get it right it can lead to better services and make it clearer for local people to access them.

Provide local health and social care services? Visit www.hscf.org.uk for a list of potential local lead and sub-contractors and add yourself. And read about our conference with Hackney Council on 3 May on consortia and how to remove some of the barriers in procurement. ♦

Jackie Brett, HSCF Coordinator

✉: hscf@hcv.org.uk ☎: www.hscf.org.uk

Over the past nine months, the Safer Young Hackney Network has discussed the challenges of the new funding environment and the change of approach from central and local government to partnerships.

To assess the strengths of the sector, we sent out an Expression of Interest form to both CYPPF and SYHN members asking for their areas of expertise and experience of being a lead partner or subcontractor.

At times it will be sensible for HCVS to lead consortia bids however we will keep this to a minimum. Our key role will be to broker relationships between the VCS and public sector partners, where consortia are requested by the funder or will provide young people with better services.

We will keep both networks informed of funding opportunities, alongside inviting organisations to join consortia where they have an expertise and track record in service delivery whenever commissioning opportunities arise both at a central and local government level.

♦ **Gary Francis, SYHN Coordinator**

✉: gary@hcv.org.uk

☎: www.hackneycen.org.uk/syh

For CYPPF work around educational attainment partnerships see page 16.

Dwindling grant opportunities means many groups are taking a fresh approach to raising money.

Gone are the days of waving a donation tin at people, instead community groups are getting creative. SPARK spoke to four organisations putting the FUN back into fundraising.

The City and Hackney Carers Centre has been organising abseiling and hosting Monday night comedy nights at 5 Tyssen Street Dalston. These nights of hilarious comedy raise money to provide breaks for disabled children and their families. Comedians include: Steve Day, Gerry Howell, Sally Tatum, Dave Gibson and Nikesh Shukla.

Ayse Dirik from The Carer's Centre said, "The Ha Ha Hackney comedy nights have been a really fun way to raise funds. We get temporary licenses to sell alcohol at the events which helps. Other fundraising activities have been popular too, such as a sponsored abseil at The Castle in Green Lanes and an organic Italian cheese and wine tasting night hosted by DrinkItaly."

The Advice Service aims to support and improve the health and wellbeing of Carers and those they care for by reducing poverty, maximising income and decreasing social exclusion as well as isolation. Support is provided through advice and information, accessing their rights to welfare benefits and housing. In addition to English, the Carer's Service offer free and confidential specialist Advice and Support in the following languages Turkish, Gujrati, Urdu, Bengali, Hindi and French.

☎: 020 7923 8750

🌐: www.hackneycarers.org.uk



"Successful fundraising is about perseverance, determination and using your resources. It's hard because young people want an instant answer and we have to keep spirits up."

Dominic Hinshelwood,
Laburnum Boat Club



Laburnum Boat kids in Nepal

Laburnum Boat Club is a social education facility concerned with the development of children and young people using watersports as a medium. SPARK met Dominic Hinshelwood at Laburnum to talk about their recent fundraising projects.

Dominic says: "We have a broad range of fundraising efforts, applications to Trusts and statutory programmes, corporate appeals, and, very importantly, active sponsored events. In October last year, for example, we fundraised to take kids on a trip to Nepal. The

young people came to us and said this is what we would like to do. We raised funds in countless ways; bucket shaking, the Marston Group Charitable Trust, the local council and its youth programmes. We went out and paddled in kayaks from Hackney up the Thames, for 47 miles over 18 hours and raising £5,500. The Jack Petchey Foundation is also a huge supporter of East End young people, donating £2,500 and in the end we raised a total £20,000.

Successful fundraising is about perseverance, determination



Carer Tutsi Muchanyuka takes the plunge



A feast at Hackney Hear launch



New Huddleston van!

and using your resources. It's hard because young people want an instant answer and we have to keep spirits up. The trip aimed to personally develop young people whilst giving back to the Nepalese community so we dug toilets for a village. Our focus is always the young people who come through the gates; if we go the extra mile we always get it back."

Apart from gaining that big grant or commission, fundraising for those added extras can be a very time-consuming activity and often the rewards can seem disappointing for the effort everyone puts in to run say a Jumble or Bring and Buy sale. But you might be surprised what others you never thought of may want to do for you.

☎: 020 7729 2915

🌐: www.laburnum.org

Nick Davis from **The Huddleston Centre** on their fundraising partnership with their local pub.

"We were approached by Tony, the owner of the Three Sisters Pub in Queensdown Road, just around the corner. Not only did Tony get a team of cyclists, who frequented his pub to do a sponsored bike ride from Southend to London, but in doing so made a lot of local people more aware of the Huddleston Centre and eager to do more to help us.

Moreover all those who took part not only thoroughly enjoyed the event, despite very sore bottoms, but raised over £3,000 towards a new vehicle for the Centre which with some added funding we now have.

So when you go somewhere local for a drink or whatever, mention who you are and what you do, you never know what may be round the corner."

☎: 0208 985 9089

🌐: www.huddlestoncentre.org

Online fundraising tips!

Get your organisation registered on the following websites and encourage people to give!

Localgiving.com provides a means for small, local organisations to fundraise through their own low cost web pages.

www.everyclick.com is a fundraising website and charity search engine. Through Give as you Live, you raise funds for free as people search the web, shop online and trade on eBay.

📄 Download your free Guide: How to use the internet for fundraising: 🌐: www.knowhownonprofit.org

The team behind **Hackney Podcast** have registered as a community interest company and are raising funds for a Hackney Hear sound based iPhone app.

As Producer Francesca Panetta explains "As you walk around the borough there will be a wonderful, immersive soundscape through your headphones. Hackney in 2012 is an ideal time and place to launch a project like this. We have the highest density of artists in the country, it's an extremely diverse area with many different communities. It's a rich borough when it comes to sound and stories."

The iPhone app will be free and Hackney Hear are looking for individuals or local businesses to support them either financially, or by contributing to the project. They also hosted a launch to gather interest from the public and media.

🌐: www.hackneyhear.com ♦

Katy Palmer

Good Governance in 24 hours

Funders say governance and financial management are two weak areas in the VCS.

HCVS delivered a successful four day Good Governance course accredited by the Institute of London Management (ILM).

Thirteen people are now armed with the tools and confidence to make informed choices about their organisation's legal structure, their roles in fundraising and steps required to improve their financial management.

We plan to work with more tenants' and residents' associations and VCS groups working with residents most in need. If you want to turn your organisation around and take part in 24 hours of training sign up for the next course. ♦

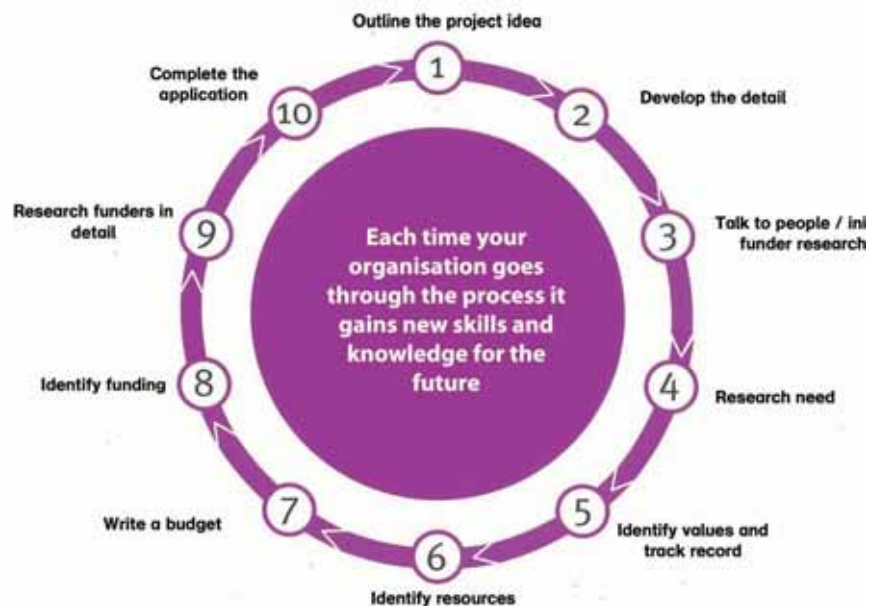
✉: helpline@hcvs.org.uk



Our Journey to Success (J2S) programme skilled-up VCS organisations working with the most disadvantaged in Hackney

Small community organisations often feel that their primary role is to provide a service. This programme reinforced the importance of diversifying income by working in partnership, investing in developing your organisation and valuing your role in influencing social policy to enhance the sustainability and profile of your organisation.

HCVS: Training & Advice Update



Our support is based on the Ten Steps to Fundraising above. Source: LVSC

Planning, fundraising and developing your skills and those of your team are even more important in this climate.

Our Organisation Development team at HCVS has been hit by loss of funding, but we will continue to support you develop your voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisation.

Unfortunately, we have to cut back on surgeries so that as many people as possible can benefit.

Now we will offer:

- Group learning – called Action Learning Sets
- Accredited training, so you and your team can gain concrete learning opportunities
- Meet the Funder sessions so you can improve your fundraising skills
- Email advice line to answer your questions: helpline@hcvs.org.uk
- Develop our online templates and support - visit www.hcvs.org.uk and click on Downloads.

Kristine or Kishore

☎: 020 7932 1962

✉: helpline@hcvs.org.uk

Training dates are on the back page. Stay up to date at www.hcvs.org.uk or sign up to our emails ✉: info@hcvs.org.uk

J2S impact:

- 38 organisations working with Refugee communities, black and ethnic-minority (BME) health, BME Arts, the Women's sector and Residents groups gained our consultancy and training
- 172 people took part in our Action Learning Sets
- 45 surgeries with HCVS, Community Accountancy Project and Volunteer Centre Hackney
- 7 organisations won a bursary of £500 to £3,000. ♦



Old and new faces at HCVS: Clockwise, left to right: Gary Francis, Paul Conway, Ruhela Akhtar, Kristine Wellington, Andrea Enisuh, Zareen Islam, Robert Hesleden, Jake Ferguson, Elizabeth Adebola, Shamima Aktar and Cleopatra Akbulut

HCVS: Fresh talent at HCVS

At HCVS, we have recruited six people through the Future Jobs Fund for eight months. Developing the skills of young people, and supporting them as they begin their careers, is an important opportunity for us and them.

All six have made a flying start, bringing with them bundles of energy and enthusiasm. We are very lucky to have them with us.

Look out for these new faces, as they share their journey with us via videos on www.hcvs.org.uk

Cleopatra Akbulut, Communications:

"This opportunity has given me the chance to draw on old skills and gain new ones. The teams are integrated making it a very enjoyable experience and comfortable working environment."



Kaysar Faruque, Youth Programmes:

"My overall experience at HCVS so far has been life changing. Very enjoyable"



Robert Heselden Grants: "Quite exciting. It's my first paid job and I've actually enjoyed it as I have been supported throughout my journey, so far"



Shamima Aktar, Reception and Fundraising: "As my first job, starting as an apprentice has been an advantage as I'm learning new skills everyday, whilst getting the opportunity to train. I thoroughly enjoy what I do as I get to multi-task whilst meeting new people."



Ruhela Akhtar, Organisation Development: "For me it has been an enjoyable experience, allowing me to gain new skills. I've enjoyed the various challenges I've come across and overcoming them."



Zareen Islam, CEN: "So far, I found it's contributed to previous skills, whilst giving me new ones. Although I've been here for a short period of time, I look forward to continuing my journey with HCVS and meeting new people." ♦



VCS Strategy Update

Thank you to everyone who took part in our consultation on the voluntary and community sector strategy.

Working with NAVCA, we have taken your comments and drafted an action plan which was signed off by Team Hackney on 28 April. ♦

Look out for news on our website: 📞: www.hcvs.org.uk

HCVS & CEN User Survey

Thank you to everyone who did our User Survey. Below is a snapshot of the results:

- **90%** of you said the support from HCVS had made an excellent difference to your organisation
- **90%** had heard of the CEN, an improvement on 2009 which was 75%
- **80%** said grants from HCVS made a difference to the people who took part in their project
- **95%** said information from HCVS and the CEN was easy-to-understand and accessible and made a difference
- But over **50%** were overwhelmed by the information. ♦

Look out for the full report on our website and what we will do to improve our services at: 📞: www.hcvs.org.uk

Follow us!



Search for Hackney CVS AND Hackney CEN



Search for hackneycvs AND hackneycen

CEN: Hackney Round the Table



Round table discussions

Over 100 people joined Hackney Community Empowerment Network and Team Hackney partners last February for the event 'Future Planning for our Changing environment'.

The event at the Town Hall's Assembly Rooms brought together Team Hackney Partnership participants, CEN Community Network leads and community organisations. The aim was to better understand the impact of the cuts on Hackney's residents, both short and long term and find key issues which will form the focus for the future of the Team Hackney Partnership.

There were five clear shared themes identified. These will be discussed at Team Hackney and form the basis of the next steps for partnership working in Hackney. These are below.

CEN: Five future themes of partnership working in Hackney

① Your Views

Here's what some participants had to say:

Jeffrey Gilbert - Health and Social Care Forum and Director of Kishar (Kishar provides opportunities for those with Learning Disabilities from Jewish Orthodox Communities)

'I was surprised by the amount of people at this event, but impressed with the huge diversity of special interest groups across Hackney. I feel much more encouraged now, because I feel like I'm included in the debate.'

Nicola Butler - Hackney Play Association

The meeting was a valuable opportunity to share information on what's going on and to find common ways of approaching our response to the cuts.

Lesley Mountford, Director of Public Health, Primary Care Trust

It was an excellent day and I learned a lot from colleagues across the borough. Our table were discussing women in domestic violence situations and we were surprised about how high the average number of incidents is that a woman will experience before she seeks help. ♦

① **Andrea Enisuoh, CEN Lead Officer** ☎: 020 7923 1962

✉: andrea@hcvs.org.uk

🌐: www.hackneycen.org.uk

- Mainstream resources, and not just financial, must be targeted at people in greatest need.
- Focus on Prevention and Early intervention should be kept and must not be lost.
- Shared, accurate, transparent evidence, including views from service users, on what is effective and needed should continue to be our basis for decision making, strategic policy development and influencing wider agendas.

CEN: Celebra

Fifteen community networks awarded grants through the last CEN Cross Cutting Network grants programme have completed their projects.

Funded through Team Hackney, the community networks were awarded between £700 and £5,000 for projects which supported the achievement of key local priorities and met the needs of Hackney's communities.

Here we profile four of the networks' key achievements.

Mental Health Special Interest Group used their grant to conduct a survey of local employers and to hold a conference around mental health and work.

City & Hackney Mind led on some aspects, initially conducting a survey of 100 local employers and then hosting a very successful conference. The conference aimed to identify best practice and challenge providers and employers to raise the standards of provision. The overall aim was to maximise opportunities for people with mental health issues to secure sustainable and meaningful employment.

Over sixty people from organisations across the spectrum of mental health provision in Hackney attended the event and the findings helped inform the report 'The Bottom Line'.

The Bottom Line report can be found here: 🌐: www.hackneycen.org.uk/resources/default.aspx

ing network success

Hackney Women's Forum

received a grant to enhance the voice and influence of their members. The funding provided space for the network to meet regularly and also respond to policy consultations on issues that have a major impact on women's lives. Last year the Forum hosted 'Community Conversations', an event that pulled together over 100 women from diverse community groups and the statutory sector to

discuss violence against women and girls in Hackney.

The event formed the basis of the report: Community Conversations - Violence against women and girls in Hackney, which was presented to Team Hackney and circulated to policy makers and community networks and organisations. The full report can be read here:

📄: www.hackneycen.org.uk/resources/default.aspx



Demonstration against violence against women by the local Turkish and Kurdish community

Educators Forum - ESOL

Network were awarded a grant to examine the ESOL needs of the Turkish and Kurdish community.

The Forum recruited researchers, volunteers and a sociologist to conduct interviews with people on ESOL courses. Mosques, colleges and community centres were particularly targeted.

The team also approached those that could not attend courses for

reasons such as illiteracy, age and issues of integration.

The concluding report: 'ESOL experiences and the needs of the Turkish and Kurdish speaking people in Hackney' launched last year at an event hosted by Hackney Community College. It provides useful insights into the experience of Turkish ESOL learners and can be read here:

📄: www.hackneycen.org.uk/resources/default.aspx



Community ESOL course at Agroforep
Photography: info@effiefotaki.com

Hackney Francophone

Network were funded to raise awareness of the needs of the Francophone community in Hackney. Formally launched last year with a meeting that pulled together more than 60 people from the Francophone community.

The Network has since worked with other community networks such as the Educators Forum and Hackney African Forum to give voice to its communities needs. Their

focus is worklessness and supporting Francophone people back in to work. Working with Lifeline they brought over 20 people from the Francophone community to an Open Day looking at employability skills.

The Network continues to grow and recently hosted a health workshop on 'A Drug-Free Lifestyle', bringing together local African - French speaking parents, guardians and carers.

◆ 📄: www.hackneycen.org.uk

Other networks awarded grants:

- African Women's Network
- Hackney Environment Network
- HSCF Drug and Alcohol Services
- Black & Minority Arts (BEMA)
- HSCF Learning Difficulties Special Interest Group (SIG)
- HSCF Older people's SIG
- Interlink Bridging & Bonding
- Council for Older People
- Hackney Vietnamese Refugees Network
- Hackney African Forum
- HSCF Disability SIG.

- Efforts to develop partnerships, reduce duplication and increase co-ordination of resources and activities between all partners must be prioritised.

- People needing help and support should not find barriers to getting to the appropriate support and information that best suits their individual needs. ◆

Follow news on CEN networks and reps

📄: www.hackneycen.org.uk



Search for Hackney CEN



Search for hackneycen

Helping people into work - Time to meet the primes!



The government contract holders or primes for the Single Work Programme (which is replacing the Flexible New Deal) have been announced. Seetec, CDG and A4E will be managing and delivering the SWP across East London, starting in the Autumn.

The Economic Development Network (EDN) based at HCVS has been working with these organisations for six months. As a result HCVS, through the EDN, will be acting as a broker between them and Hackney-based voluntary and community (VCS) groups interested in working with them to deliver

aspects of the programme. We will be working with Hackney Council on a longer term plan for VCS initiatives tackling Worklessness. Fairness is key to any contract and the EDN is committed to ensuring that all agreements of partnership working, subcontracting or 'spot purchasing' (where an organisation is paid for a particular service rather than as an end to end provider) reflect the value of the service provided. Look at our website for our June event for members to meet the three contract holders. ◆



EDN's Funding Our Future

📍 **Judy Harris, EDN Project Officer** ✉: judy@hcvs.org.uk
🌐: www.hacknecen.org.uk/edn

Introducing Young Hackney - our new challenge?

The new Young Hackney service combines the Youth Service, Youth Offending team and Youth Support teams into a single service for Hackney's young people aged 8 - 19.

Young Hackney will be focused around "hubs" (high quality buildings designed for young people) for young people in localities rather than by which service they've been referred to. Voluntary and community members of the Children & Young People's Providers Forum (CYPPE) and the Safer Young Hackney network (SYHN) met and raised concerns about how they fit into this, how would they access support and feed young people into Young Hackney.

Florence Kroll, Assistant Director Youth Crime Reduction at Hackney Council engaged in the debate - offering back challenges to all young people's providers. Also discussed was a possible merger between the two networks given that all services were being brought under one roof. It was decided that the networks would continue as they are but work more closely on partnership bids. The networks will meet jointly over the next 3 - 6 months to review Young Hackney, assess the shape of the VCS and explore how to would position ourselves in the year ahead. ◆



Young Hackney: The Debate

Kristine Wellington, CYPPE Coordinator
✉: kristine@hcvs.org.uk
🌐: www.hacknecen.org.uk/cyppe

Gary Francis, SYHN Coordinator
✉: gary@hcvs.org.uk
🌐: www.hacknecen.org.uk/syhn

Do you help improve children's success at school?

Through the Children and Young People's Providers Forum, we know of 60 organisations who are working to improve

educational attainment through a variety of approaches – family learning programmes, supplementary schools, after school clubs, using embedded literacy such as drama and creative activities. We want to hear from

organisations working with Hackney's most disadvantaged children and young people, who want to be part of a joint bid – the current opportunity is Improving Futures. But there are so many opportunities we are working on. ◆ 🌐: www.hacknecen.org.uk/cyppe



Update on Adult social care reviews

2011-12 is the final year that Hackney Council will continue their existing contracts with voluntary and community sector (VCS) providers providing adult social care services such as support for older people or those with mental health concerns.

This was done so that the Council could review current adult social care services, in light of Transformation or Personal Budgets and shrinking budgets.

City & Hackney Health & Social Care Forum (HSCF) requested that reviews take a holistic view - comparing VCS services with statutory services on a like for like, cost for cost basis.

This is not happening in the way

we wanted: the pressure is on to ensure all new services from the VCS are procured and ready to start by April 2012 whereas mostly statutory sector services will be looked at in the next wave of reviews.

CEN and service user reps are involved in these reviews and in drawing up the new specifications. Opposite, read how this is going from some of the people involved.

The timetable for this is:

- May: Specifications to be drawn up
- From June: Services will be tendered. ♦

📍 **Jackie Brett, HSCF Coordinator**

✉: hscf@hcv.org.uk

🌐: www.hscf.org.uk

📍 Your Views

Nursel Tas, Chief Executive Officer - Derman for the well-being of Turkish and Kurdish communities



"I am concerned that by pushing us to merge into partnerships, we may lose culturally appropriate and sensitive services provided by small local organisations."

Luke Daniels, Men Who Care Project leader - The City & Hackney Carers Centre



"The reviews will no doubt have an effect on services as we know them and there are bound to be losers and winners. Let's hope when the dust settles there are not more losers than winners."

Council's Corporate Strategy outlines partnership opportunities for VCS

Councillor Jonathan McShane, below, Cabinet Member for Community Services spoke to SPARK about two elements of the Council's new Corporate Plan relevant to the voluntary and community sector.



"Driven by the Mayor's Priorities and our Sustainable Community Strategy, Hackney

Council has produced its corporate plan as part of the annual business and financial planning process. The plan sets out the Council's priorities and details the high level actions it plans to take to achieve these.

Over the past five years the Council has invested both time and resources to develop strong partnerships with our statutory and voluntary sector partners; and whilst central government policy may change we are committed to continuing to develop closer working to deliver better outcomes for the residents of Hackney.

This is important with reduced budgets across the public sector which brings with it the need for greater effectiveness and removal of duplication. We have made this a priority within our '**Bringing public & voluntary services closer together in Team Hackney**' corporate programme.

We are also committed to further development of the Council's and partners' relationship

with the community and we have set up a new corporate programme to address this area, the '**Increasing community engagement in delivery of the Sustainable Community Strategy**' programme. More work is needed to fully scope this however its core aim is to seek community engagement in reframing public services in these tougher times so we are able to successfully achieve the outcomes in our Sustainable Community Strategy.

The successful benefits these programmes will bring can only be realised by working closely with Hackney's VCS, and we look forward to developing this work further in closer partnership with you". ♦ Read this 🌐: www.hackney.gov.uk/xp-plans.htm

Running challenge to help get Hackney's young people fit for 2012

Street Level Trust

Young people of Hackney learnt how to eat and exercise like Olympic athletes, as **Street Level Trust** launched its first running challenge in Shoreditch Park in March.

Street Level Trust was founded in 1980 and registered as a charity in April 2000 to improve the life chances of children and young people in Hackney and surrounding boroughs in East London. They work with schools in Islington and Hackney as well as running a Youth Group open Wednesdays from 5 to 7pm.

The running event was funded by Hackney's Youth Opportunity Fund after a Street Level youth group came up with the idea and applied for funding. Street Level offered a free health check-up and training at the Britannia



Printing T-shirts for the runners

Leisure Centre to help those who signed up prepare for the challenge and learn how to lead a healthier lifestyle. Runners were also given a T-shirt and training pack.

Claudia Turbet-Delof, Project Manager, Street Level says: "Learning how to live healthily has been one of the key themes of our youth groups over the last year. That it was a group of young people who came up with this idea shows that the youth of Hackney are excited by the prospect of having the Olympic Games on their doorstep and want it to inspire the whole borough to get fit."

Street Level also invited everyone in Hackney to enter their photography competition. Out of over 250 entries, the winners were Neil Anthony and Violeta Gorzycynski, they won an SLR Digital camera each. ♦ Katy Palmer

📞 **Street Level Trust**

☎ : 020 7729 7719

Hackney Hosts for 2012

By this summer, Hackney will have recruited 100 residents as Hackney Hosts - volunteers who will become well known in the borough during the lead up to the 2012 Games.

The Hosts receive free training, including accredited first aid training, and will be supported to find work, in the process becoming involved in the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Some Hackney Hosts will become 2012 Champions, helping to promote the ethos of the Games and Games-related activities within their own communities.

The first group of volunteers has already helped out at a recent Jobs Fair and with the Census, and next month will provide support for customers at the New Age Games – Hackney's programme of free activities for people over 50. This month, a



group of 30 took a tour of the Olympic Park.

Single mother, Fade Adenile, became a Host because she wanted more involvement in



her local community. "I wanted to be a part of the Olympics, to see how it benefits me, the community and the nation," she says. "As a volunteer, giving back to the community can be used as a stepping stone to do what you

want to do in life".

For more information about Hackney Hosts, to enquire about joining the programme, or to request help from the Hosts, contact Helen Goodsell, Community Engagement and Volunteering officer for Hackney Council's 2012 Unit at helen.goodsell@hackney.gov.uk

The scheme is run jointly with Peabody.

HCVS Profile: Powerful Measures

Powerful Measures joined HCVS as members in March. Elaine Bandele director, told SPARK "I was searching for advice on what type of legal structure the organisation needed, and I came across HCVS on Google. They've been tremendously helpful.

Victor (HCVS advisor) sat through my ideas and advised what would be best for PM, especially when seeking trustees. He sent me vital information via email and pointed me to a 'guerrilla marketing' workshop. The workshop was a massive eye opener; it was amazing, if I had more time I'd get into guerrilla marketing! I also did a full cost recovery course, as we've never had to apply for grants before. It was useful as it made me realise what exactly the funders want to see. I had a meeting afterwards with the trainer Cyndi, discussing my queries about accounts.



Elaine Bandele

We're currently developing two projects, 'The Forgotten Gang' a photo documentary which aims to interview 1000 young aspiring black people which will tour the UK. And Share which enables young people to share their life experiences and unwanted resources with young people in Jamaica where we deliver free career coaching and motivational coaching workshops.

I was born to Jamaican parents and wanted to focus on Jamaica to eradicate the way young Jamaicans are prone to judging

themselves as it creates a paralysing sense of helplessness. Powerful Measures combines my career as a youth development coach with my love for Jamaica to motivate the country's young people." ♦ Katy Palmer

Elaine Bandele - Powerful Measures ☎ : 07950 226 619
🌐: www.powerfulmeasures.com

HCVS membership starts from £10 and includes free use of our conference room and access to GRANTfinder – the UK's leading grants and policy database.

📞 **Paul Conway** ☎ : 020 7932 1962 🌐: www.hcvs.org.uk

HCVS Inspiring Young Hackney

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 local young people.

Making Dance, Music, Drama Arts and Sports are our final organisation to profile - we will feature them in the next issue. ♦

✉: mdmdarts@yahoo.co.uk



The Crib held its successful Boroughs United in January, Aaliyah Campbell is pictured opposite. Eight boroughs took part, with a Hackney act winning the Singing prize. Organised by young people, the show aims to bring youth together and breakdown postcode barriers.

In April, young women from The Crib launched a campaign called Beauty Within, to encourage young women to value their identity, culture and body. It's in memory of Crib member Claudia Aderotimi who died aged 20 in February after getting illegal cosmetic surgery in America. ♦

✉: the.crib@hotmail.co.uk

HCVS: Over £8million grants awarded to 2,000 projects in 9 years!



Inner City Outer Space: Funded by Local Network Fund & Improving Reach

Photography: Effie Fotaki info@effiefotaki.com

IMPACT: HCVS Grants

- Over **£8m** grants distributed 2002 - 2011
- Through **21** grants programmes from local authority, Government and national bodies
- Over **2,000** community projects received grants
- But over **6,000** applications were received
- Proof of the **HIGH** demand for small grant funding in Hackney
- Over **2,500** volunteers supported
- Over **1,000** paid staff funded
- Over **1.5 million** beneficiaries in nine years.

2011 is the end of era at HCVS, as we prepare to say goodbye to our hard working Grants team. Dedicated duo Elizabeth Adebola, above right, and Nadia Capogrosso, below right, have been at the helm of our Grants management for the last nine years. We said goodbye to Nadia in March, while Elizabeth will be leaving later in the year.



Elizabeth said: "The end of grants programmes at HCVS due to Government funding cut to the Area Based Grant will leave a big gap in services to the community. Over the past ten years, HCVS has put securing investment for the community in the forefront of its strategic objectives.

To achieve this, we have worked with different Government departments and organisations to deliver grants programmes for the benefit of Hackney residents. Including Government Office for London, former Department for Education and Skills now Department for Schools Children and Families, Office of the Third Sector through Community Development Foundation, Hackney Drug Action Team, The Learning Trust and Team Hackney.

Many voluntary and community sector organisations have been supported to deliver invaluable projects for the benefit of Hackney residents from various communities, ethnicities and faiths. This is a huge loss which will affect the crucial intervention previously provided by the sector."

Ian Lewis, Assistant Chief Executive at Hackney Council said, "Thanks to all the funded community groups who helped achieve better outcomes for local people through their grant funded work and to HCVS for their effective administration of the Grants Programme, on behalf of Team Hackney, in recent years." ♦

Selection of projects funded by 2007' Community Investment Programme:

Step by Step, Chatsworth Lunch Club, AbneyPark Trust, Balik Arts
Photography: Effie Fotaki info@effiefotaki.com



HCVS Funded Projects include:

Health

Obesity Awareness; Healthy Eating; Cookery Project; health & Independent Living; Yoga for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder; Breast Cancer Awareness; infant mortality; Psychiatric Rehabilitation; HIV Positive African Men project....

Training & Employment

Careers Fair; Web-design, Graphic-design & Video Editing Course; Training for the future – Technicians; Training and employment Pathway into Housing; Training in construction; ESOL classes; Mentoring...

Domestic Violence & Violence against women & girls

addressed by various communities by delivering projects to raise awareness and research to help inform the public sector; Single fathers' project; Turkish law & human rights project...

Sports across communities

Football, Cricket, Basketball, Cycling, boat club, karate...

Arts, heritage & cultural

Carnivals; festivals; Women folkdance, Rhythm classes & Computer; Capoeira; Traditional Saz classes; Conservation of historic buildings project; Woodcraft Workshops with Travellers Children; Introduction to Silk Screen Printing...

Other Projects: Environmental projects, Based on estates; homeless; migrants; young people; older people; people with disabilities; tackling Child Poverty.

"Thank you for the demonstrable hard work you have put in the documentation and diligence shown in assisting Off Centre in reaching more young people in a preventative manner. We look forward to working with you."

Willis Atherley-Jones - Off Centre



HCVS: Extra Grassroots Grants funding for Hackney!



Calling small community or voluntary groups with a turnover of less than £30,000! Additional funding of £67,000 has been awarded to Hackney through the East End & City Grassroots Grants programme. You can apply for up to £5,000 for projects that end by 30 September 2011.

Projects funded in the past include Transfusion Music who were funded at the beginning of their second year during a turbulent time of grants and funding cuts. They were able to refine their music and book reading courses for parents and carers to ensure they met the greatest needs of our Hackney families.

Transfusion Music's Seanine Joyce said, "After only the second session, a mother who was finding it difficult interesting her children in reading was jubilant in announcing her two young children now switch off the TV as soon as she sits down to read to them. The results are very exciting and now many Children's Centres are engaging us to train their staff and crèche workers. The grant has also enabled us to engage the services of a professional fundraiser to guide us in shaping our future fundraising strategy."

Wayne Walton from Sunbeam Club for the Elderly also funded said the grant, "helped us improve the range of our activities, the quality of the members lives and boost the self-belief, achievement and aspirations of the elderly, who are mainly of African Caribbean descent."

"One 74 year old said, none of us have ever used a computer before, we didn't know how and we were scared, but now we can do lots of things. Because of this, some of the elderly have started to write short stories, poems and even a play about aspects their life. Thank you to Grassroots Grants and HCVS for their help, support and this opportunity; it's a great start."

You can download an application pack from www.hcvs.org.uk or ☎: 020 7932 1962

📧 Transfusion Music ✉: info@transfusionmusic.org
Sunbeam Club for the Elderly ✉: sunbeamclub@hotmail.co.uk

Taylan Sahbaz

Hackney Advice Forum



SPARK spoke to Taylan Sahbaz, Chair of Hackney Advice Forum which defends independent advice provision and fighting the cuts to legal aid.

"I am a member of the first generation of Turkish and Kurdish migrants to Hackney. Specifically, in between the generation that had moved here in the late 80s and the generation that was emerging.

I have been involved in the work of Day-Mer, Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre since mid-90s as a youth volunteer, so I grew up with the support mechanisms enabled by the voluntary and community sector. The important role played by refugee community organisations as the prime way of raising issues and accessing services made me attentive to the issues of the community.

In 1997 I ran a drug education project at Day-Mer, and then I took an active role in the organisation's advice team, after which I became the centre co-ordinator dealing with the management of the organisation's services.

Through Day-Mer's network I became involved in the Children and Young People's Provider's Forum (CYPPF) and the Hackney Advice Forum (HAF).

At the CYPPF I found a platform not only to communicate the needs of parents and children of Turkish and Kurdish communities,

but also gained opportunities to become aware of the common issues and needs across service users in general. The network is a good space to share information and examples of good working practice and to influence local policy relevant to children and young people's services.

Although my involvement in HAF dates back to around 2005, the real active period began in the run up to the production of a Hackney Advice Strategy by the local authority in 2007. I became the chair of HAF in September 2009 and have been working with Cathy Murphy who co-ordinates the work of the forum.

Neither of these are paid roles but they relate to the need of local organisations which provide advice.

HAF's had a successful journey and I'm really proud to be involved in that. These successes can be summarised as:

- having a key input into the borough's Advice Strategy
- the production of an alternative strategy for the independent advice sector
- the key role we play in the Community Advice Partnership which emerged as the working group to implement the Strategy
- the very successful MATES project (Multi-Lingual Adviser Training & Employment Scheme) which we, as a forum, designed and delivered with very little or no resources.

Moving on from MATES, HAF now wants to enable the council to look at what kind of advice model will best serve the needs of Hackney.

We still have priority areas of work around advice referrals, quality of services as well as updating the Hackney Advice Strategy. Advice is really important because it cuts across everything, especially in this climate when the needs for advice services have increased substantially.

That brings me to legal aid, at HAF we're hoping to become involved in the campaigns to defend legal aid both locally and nationally. I have every confidence that we will build up consensus about the best mode of progression on the basis of cooperation and partnership work that has been so characteristic of the work of our forum.

We will continue to juggle in between different priorities in HAF, we have to advocate for advice needs, input into policy but also get resources to do so. These will continue to be tensions which motivate our work even though our first and foremost priority is still to ensure the independent provision of advice services to the borough's population." ♦ Katy Palmer

📍 Hackney Advice Forum

🌐 www.hackneycen.org.uk/haf

✉ cathy@cathymurphy.org.uk

In brief

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



Hospital & Prison Action Network is sponsored by Hackney Council to raise awareness about Prostate Cancer. It is the most common cancer in men - with 36,000 men diagnosed every year and one man dying every hour in the UK. ♦

☎: 07501 066 097



African Caribbean Re-Union have built accommodation in Sierra Leone for first time visitors to Africa. They organise trips for up to two weeks for African Caribbean descents as part of their aim to educate people about Africa. ♦

🌐: www.africanib-reunion.org



Choice in Hackney's Director, Caroline Nelson won the Afiya Award 2011 honouring leadership and excellence Service User Leadership Award. Caroline was nominated by Liz Hughes, CEN and a voluntary organisation.

On receiving her award Caroline said it felt: "Great! Especially as a disabled person. Knowing that my contribution is acknowledged, useful and appreciated. Above all, that I make a difference within my community." ♦

🌐: www.choiceinhackney.org



Wilton Estate Youth Club launched their exhibition The Creative Estate in March. Funded by the Youth Opportunity Fund, the exhibition shows off photography and animation created by young people from the estate in recent workshops. ♦

✉: s.suso-runge@arts.ac.uk

HCVS: Remembering Halil Kaya



Jennifer Rowe who worked at HCVS remembers Halil Kaya who died in March, one of our longest serving volunteers.

"In October 2002, HCVS was promoting one of its newest projects, Disability Hackney, and had distributed flyers to the public and voluntary and community sector. A day later, we opened the door to a smartly dressed man called Halil Kaya holding a flyer.

He had come to see what Disability Hackney was about, to check out HCVS and to offer his time as a volunteer.

Funnily enough, we were busy organising a mail-out which caught Halil's eye. He rolled up his sleeves and got down to the job - sending out over 200 letters that day.

Having showed his commitment, Halil was welcomed to the small team as a trusted, loyal and determined volunteer. He went on to become one of our longest serving volunteers, putting in just and determination and becoming well known and respected by everyone he met.

Halil was a joy to work with and soon became not only colleague but a friend. He loved the idea of belonging and as he was retired, looked forward to spending time

doing a worthwhile job.

Halil related to the younger staff encouraging further education and good manners. He was a mathematician, very quick at calculations and in his spare time attended college to learn computer skills. He liked to write stories of his youth and being able to use the computer was very exciting to him.

He was a very proud father and often spoke of his family, some of whom lived in Turkey and Zelina - HCVS Project Support Officer.

I am saddened that Halil has passed and is no longer with us but there remains happy memories of the years we worked together and through this small tribute, I wish Zelina and his family compassion and encouragement in the days ahead without him." ♦ Jennifer Rowe, Ex-colleague and Friend

I 2011 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 Cleopatra Akbulut

✉: info@hcv.org.uk

To book or find out more about these events:

Visit our website 🌐: www.hcv.org.uk or email

✉: info@hcv.org.uk or ☎: 020 7923 1962

May 2011

Wed, 11: 10am – 1pm
Planning With A Purpose Recognition Day - for everyone who has accessed our planning sessions @ HCVS, 84 Springfield House, 5 Tyssen Street E8 2LY

Thu, 12: 11am - 1pm
CEN: Mental Health Special Interest Group
Venue to be confirmed

Fri, 13: 1 - 3pm **CEN: Hackney Refugee Forum:** Cognitive Therapy for Mental Health @ HCVS

Sat, 21: 10.30 - 1pm
Consultation: Your views on Independent Living Services for Hackney @ Graeae Theatre Company, Bradbury Studio, 138 Kingsland Road E2 8DY

Tues, 24: 10.30 - 1pm
Consultation: Your views on Independent Living Services for Hackney @ Assembly Hall, Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street E8 1EA Deaf interpreter provided

Tues, 24: 10.30 - 1pm
Consultation: Your views on Independent Living Services for Hackney @ Woodberry Down Community Centre,

Kayani Avenue, London, N4 2HF

June 2011

Wed, 1: 10am - 1pm
Working with children and young people? Everything you need to know about Project Oracle - the Mayor's programme to prevent youth crime and in improving the lives of children and young people in London @ HCVS

Tue, 7: 10am - 1pm
Policies, Getting Insured, Procedures, Financial Controls - Why Bother? Meet Case Insurance, the sector's leading employability and personal liability insurers @ HCVS, as above

Tue, 7: 2 - 4pm
Meet PEACe: HR & Employment Advice service from LVSC @ HCVS, as above

Wed, 8: 1.30 - 4.30pm
CEN: Children & Young People's Providers Forum continuing our work around children with disabilities @ HCVS

Are you prepared for the Dragon's Den?

Planning is a critical part of increasing your community organisation's success.

We've helped many of you work on business, project and work plans. Thanks to East London Business Alliance (ELBA), eight Hackney voluntary and community groups, from grassroots to commissioned providers, benefitted from the corporate insight of eight volunteers from top City firms.

Not submitted your plans? There's still time - please ✉: kristine@hcv.org.uk

We're holding a recognition day on 11 May to celebrate your achievements and prepare you for our Dragon's Den style Meet the Funder – an opportunity for you to meet and pitch to a funder - City Bridge, Arts Council to name but a few.

Congratulations to all those who've signed up our Youth Workforce training programme!

We were oversubscribed - 110 requests for 50 units. First, we weren't allowed to register you all but we've secured places for everyone.

We've passed the major challenge to recruit as many of you as possible – now it's down to you! But we'll be with every step of the way. You should have your ticket to progress registration, completed your induction and received your confirmation letter with start dates.

We'll be reporting on your progress in the next SPARK. ♦

📞: Ruhela Akhtar ☎: 020 7932 1962

✉: ruhela@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:

