

SPARK



Hackney CVS' magazine for the
voluntary and community sector

January 2012

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We welcome articles by e-mail to: matt@hcv.org.uk
The submission deadline for our Spring edition is 5th of March 2012

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STATEMENT

SPARK is produced by Hackney Council for Voluntary Service. The views and opinions expressed in SPARK are not necessarily those of Hackney CVS. Hackney CVS is Hackney's leading voluntary and community sector (VCS) support agency and your local Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

SPARK

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Artburst

Adiaha Antigha Award winning social enterprise Artburst continue to develop 'Speak Out', a project for young people with speech, language and communication problems, thanks to a £370,000 award from the Big Lottery Fund.

The project aims to improve young people's educational attainment, build their confidence and social skills, and also increase their awareness of the speech and language services and facilities currently available.

The two elements of the project are the 'Artburst Minis', a programme of creative workshops for 2-5 year olds and their parents and carers and 'Make a Play' which supports those making the transition from primary to secondary school by helping them to design their own play based on a popular children's book.

'The best thing is that we don't just learn a play like you do in other drama groups. It's more fun because we make up our own lines and we can imagine more.'

Maadiyah McCarthy, aged 11

For more information go to: www.artburst.co.uk

Left: Young people on the Speak Out project receive acting tips from the stars of this year's Hackney Empire pantomime, Cinderella.

Hands Inc

Complementary Therapy Clinics

2011 was a fantastic year for Hands Inc with their low cost Complementary Therapy Clinic growing from one massage clinic and an acupuncture clinic to three massage clinics, an acupuncture clinic and a reflexology clinic. During the early stages of 2012 an Indian head massage clinic will be added to the offer.

Hands Inc have some fantastic therapists, including a male therapist. Their male therapist runs a massage clinic in the Lower Clapton Health Centre, allowing access to men with religious beliefs which don't allow them to receive massage from a female therapist. This has proven to be an extremely valuable service, seeing a huge increase in men receiving complementary therapies.

Anyone who is either over 60 or on benefits is eligible to access the service. Call **0844 774 1244** and leave a message for an appointment.



Hands Inc's mission is to inspire health and well-being through a range of healthy living and prevention activities, complementary therapies and art therapy.



... there will be more opportunities for the sector to bring 'unheard voices' to the table in 2012"

What lies ahead?

I'm sure you are, like me, wondering what 2012 will bring the voluntary and community sector? Locally it's not yet clear what the impact on the sector will be of any proposed cuts. However, I get the impression from the Council that this year is not going to be that bad because most of the cuts happened last year with the loss of the Government Funded Area Based Grant. Indeed the Council remains committed to keeping its voluntary sector grants programme intact with an ongoing review shaping a refreshed programme for 2012/13. Its 2013/14 that's going to be Armageddon with frontline services likely to be hit.

What I do know is there is a commitment to the sector by politicians and senior officers in Hackney that puts us in good stead to negotiate and have positive dialogue.

It's not all about funding of course and many of the things Hackney CVS do are not about money. I feel there will be more opportunities for the sector to bring 'unheard voices' to the table in 2012 in the run up to the 'Greatest Show on Earth', the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

So what is Hackney CVS going to be doing to help you this year?

1. We will continue to work with the Community Empowerment Network and its respective networks to make sure your voices are heard by decision makers and strategic bodies, especially when it comes to how cuts impact on the most vulnerable.
2. We are awaiting the outcome of our bid to the Lottery to work in partnership with other infrastructure organisations to improve our support offer collectively to the sector, including support from the private sector.
3. We will be increasing our training offer to you, and also making sure you have the information to keep up-to-date with policy changes.
4. We are currently negotiating a potential £900k three year investment into the local sector. This will help a number of local organisations, working closely with the Council and local schools, to provide a community-led response to families in crisis and on the brink of intensive social service intervention.

As always, we need you to be constantly telling us when we are getting it wrong and of course, it's always nice to know when we are getting it right. Together we stand - United we won't fall.

Jake Ferguson, CEO, Hackney CVS

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Hackney Shares: A Time Bank for Organisations

Timebanking has been growing in Hackney for a couple of years now. Individuals sharing their skills on an 'hour for an hour' based credit scheme is becoming more and more popular as a way not just to get things done without money, but to develop the skills, confidence and wellbeing of those involved, building community wellbeing along the way.

Timber Wharf Time Bank, based on Kingsland Road, is a free resource for anyone who lives or works in Hackney. Celebrating their second birthday this month, Timber Wharf are part of Headway East London and facilitate exchanges between individuals ranging from acupuncture to yoga, Spanish classes, legal advice and help with shopping and housework.

Their latest development is Hackney Shares, a time bank for organisations, through which charities and

businesses can build capacity by trading under-utilised resources and assets (e.g. training or desk space) with each other on the same 'hour for an hour' basis.

Due to launch in the first quarter of 2012 Hackney Shares will also be a borough-wide time bank network, providing seed funding and support to new time banks.

This looks set to develop time exchange to a new level in the borough and will enable all local time banks like Brick Lane and Hackney Exchange to share skills between them so people and organisations in the borough can access any skill from any time bank at any time.

Anyone interested in the projects should contact Matthew McStravick at matt@twtb.co.uk

Equality & Inequalities

Equality Objectives

Hackney Council invites you to have your say on the development of their Equality objectives.

Hackney Council is inviting residents, service users and other stakeholders to have their say on the development of the council's Equality objectives. Under the Equality Act 2010, Councils are required to develop and publish Equality objectives and set out how they will measure improvement to take their commitment forward over the next 3 to 4 years.

The Council is committed to ensuring that the services they provide are accessible to all and meet different people's needs. The draft Equality objectives below were developed as part of a review of the Sustainable Community Strategy. Improving life chances, and increasing prosperity and equality for all is at the heart of the Sustainable Community Strategy.

The Council would like residents to tell them whether these draft objectives reflect the needs and concerns of people who live and work in Hackney. In summary, the draft objectives are:

1. Identify, prioritise and deliver actions which aim to narrow the gap in outcomes between certain disadvantaged groups and the wider community.
2. Improve service design, delivery and access by

improving the way we engage with communities, use customer feedback and develop our knowledge and understanding of our communities.

3. Foster good relations by promoting greater awareness and understanding between our communities.

The consultation will run until 21 February 2012. The Council will continue to consult directly with community groups and service users throughout 2012.

Let the Council know what you think of the draft objectives by completing the online questionnaire at: www.hackney.gov.uk/equalities-objectives

If you would like a paper copy of the questionnaire or if you have any queries about this consultation please email: equalities@hackney.gov.uk or call 020 8356 5194. Completed questionnaires and/or written views can also be sent to: Freepost LON 18819, The Consultation Team, London Borough of Hackney, Mare Street, London E8 IEA.

To make sure the views of the voluntary and community sector are included in the consultation the Community Empowerment Network have arranged a meeting between the VCS and the Council. Come along and get your voice heard.

Details: 22nd Feb 10-1pm including lunch at the Tomlinson Centre, Queensbridge Road E8 3ND To book your place or for further information contact Andrea Enisuoh: andrea@hcv.org.uk

Child Poverty

In 2009 40% of Hackney's children were living in poverty, according to the City and Hackney Health and Wellbeing Profile (2011/12).

Although this an improvement from 44% in 2008 it remains almost twice the average for England of 21% and it means Hackney has the third highest rate of child poverty in London after Tower Hamlets and Newham.

Over 2.5 million children are living in poverty in England and low parental income has been indicated as one of the main causes of this. However Rachel Laurence, the Development Manager at 4 in10, also points to London's high housing costs (50% higher than national average), high childcare costs (23% higher

than England average) and transport costs (63% higher than national urban average) as being the key reasons. Child poverty often results in poor educational attainment, obesity and poor housing conditions.

Kristine Wellington from the The Children and Young People's Provider Forum states: 'These figures show how much work there still is to do to challenge inequality. During 2012 we will be working in partnership across the borough to challenge and tackle child poverty.'

Contact: kristine@hcv.org.uk

Race And Racism in the 21st Century

After eighteen years of investigation and appraisal Gary Dobson and David Norris have finally been convicted of the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence. The issues that made the case so lengthy are, however, still present and open for debate. In the aftermath of this law-altering case the question remains: 'If we live in a post-racial society, why do certain ethnic groups continue to experience disadvantage and discrimination?'

This question is being examined by Race on the Agenda (ROTA) in order to explore the present inequalities faced by BAME children, young people and their families in Hackney. An example is the disproportionate level of unemployment in young people, one in two young black people are unemployed in contrast to one in eight of young people in general.

ROTA, in partnership with Hackney CVS are hosting an event 'Race and Racism in the 21st

Century' at the Tomlinson Centre on Tuesday February 28th.

Jake Ferguson, CEO, Hackney CVS; Elizabeth Henry, Chief Executive, Race on the Agenda; and Sir William Atkinson, Headteacher, Phoenix High School, amongst others, will present their views on what needs to be done to progress race equality in key areas relevant to BAME children, young people and their families. Diane Abbott MP will then chair a solutions-focused discussion with panellists and the audience including up to 60 representatives of the BAME voluntary, community and statutory sectors.

The seminar will be followed by ROTA's AGM.

Date: 28th February 2012

Time: 2:00pm to 6:00pm

Venue: The Tomlinson Centre, Queensbridge Road

Inequalities

The UK is one of the most unequal of all the developed countries. On average, the richest 20% of the population is seven times richer than the poorest 20%. (Equality Trust)

There is a strong correlation between income inequality in a society and a wide range of health and social problems. (Equality Trust)

Hackney is still one of the most deprived boroughs in England. (JSNA 2011/12)

One in five children in London are obese, which is higher than the England average of 18.7%. The figure in Hackney is 25.5%. (Health and Public Services Committee)

If the UK was to shift from being one of the most unequal societies in the developed world (as it is now) to being one of the most equal then, for example, rates of mental illness would be five times lower, rates of imprisonment also five times better and rates of obesity six times better. (Equality Trust)

Community Contact

CEN

Community Empowerment Network represents the voluntary & community sector (VCS) at Team Hackney (Hackney Council), where decisions on policy, services and spending are made.
www.hackneycen.org.uk

ROTA (Race on the Agenda)

Social policy think tank devoted to issues that affect London's Black and Minority Ethnic communities.
www.rota.org.uk

EQUALITY TRUST

Because more equal societies work better for everyone.
www.equalitytrust.org.uk

Hackney Borough of Sanctuary

Celebrates the contribution of the many people who have come to Hackney for safety and are part of the community.
www.cityofsanctuary.org/hackney

Hackney Single Work Programme

Judy Harris, Project Officer for the Economic Development Network, reports on her work to ensure that the expertise of the voluntary and community

For the last few months Hackney's Economic Development Network has been working to make sure the expertise of the voluntary and community sector is included in the government's new initiative to move people into work. In Hackney, the Single Work Programme (SWP) is being delivered by three prime contractors (Seetec, A4e and CDG - the first two are private companies while CDG is a charity). The contract is designed so that the government makes large payments to the primes when their customers are moved into a job and stay in that job for a year or more. This is meant to pass the risk of failure to the prime contractors - if they don't succeed in moving people into work then they won't make a profit.

In Hackney there are a large number of people who have complex barriers to work and who need tailored support to enable them to achieve and sustain a job. This is an area where the voluntary and community sector can really make a difference to people's lives. However, because of the design of the SWP contract, there is not a lot of money up front to pay for VCS projects and most VCS organisations cannot wait two years to be paid for services they delivered at the beginning of someone's journey back to work.

We met with all three primes to advocate for the inclusion of the VCS in their delivery chains and to highlight the work of our members who specialise in delivering employability programmes to people who are a long way from the labour market. The primes readily recognised the expertise of the sector (especially if they themselves were new to Hackney). However they often commented that the design of the SWP means that VCS organisations would need either to have their projects and workshops 'spot purchased' as short interventions (such as workshops or small projects) which the primes would buy as and when they need to, or become part of a more

formal contract and have more money invested in long-term projects but then take on the risk of waiting for payment.

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The brokerage role of the EDN has been excellent."

As a result of publicising the network and reaching out to the primes, the EDN was able to work closely with Prospects (who are sub-contractors for Seetec) to enable EDN members to propose projects which Prospects could buy for their work programme customers. After receiving proposals from the network, Prospects held a meeting for EDN members to talk about their projects in more detail. Contracts for these projects are being finalised as this issue goes to print. For example, Headliners is setting up a project with Prospects. Kelly White, their Head of Business and Marketing, said 'The brokerage role of the EDN has been excellent'.

Whilst spot purchasing services is a valuable opportunity for the sector to contribute to the SWP, it is a contractual arrangement which limits the involvement of the VCS to short, sharp interventions rather than long term engagement with a client which is often what is needed for people with significant barriers to employment.

EDN Chair, David Blagbrough states: 'These meetings are an acknowledgement of the key role that the third sector can play in enabling the Primes to successfully deliver their SWP outputs and the value they place on having the EDN as a single point of entry into Hackney's Voluntary and Community sector.'



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Hackney Refugee Forum

The Hackney Refugee Forum was as busy as ever in the closing months of 2011. HRF developed and supported a range of programmes including Women into Health Work, community health check ups, the campaign for free ESOL courses,



Health Check up Day at the Alevi Centre



Ali Askoy with Councillor Ian Rathbone at the Borough of SanctuARY AGM

In mid-November HRF organised a Health Check Up day at the Alevi Cultural Centre. Organised in partnership with Homerton Hospital's Diabetic Department, the Stroke Association and a number of Turkish speaking doctors, the event attracted over 200 people for obesity, blood and blood pressure check ups. Ali Askoy of HRF sums up the importance of the event: 'Some people were advised to go to the Hospital straight away after the check ups indicated high sugar levels and high blood pressure'.

The Women into Health programme celebrated further success in the last quarter of 2011. The programme encourages and empowers migrant and refugee women to find employment in the health sector, an area where women from refugee communities are under-represented.

During the programme, participants study ICT and numeracy and are supported with job searches, specifically looking at jobs in health. Nine women completed the second round of the project, and two of the women are now progressing to study an NVQ level 2 in health.

Hackney Borough of Sanctuary held their first AGM at Hackney CVS in November.

Hackney Refugee Forum is one of the leading partners of the Borough of Sanctuary partnership. The partnership of voluntary and faith groups aims to welcome all people who seek sanctuary from violence, poverty, war and hopelessness in their own countries. The partnership is committed to celebrating the contribution of the many people who have come here for safety and are part of the Hackney community. For more information see: www.cityofsanctuary.org/hackney

Talking of HRF's plans for 2012, Ali Askoy says: "The forum has a lot of important work to do during the year. We will continue to organise health and community events and look forward to working with new partners such as the Chinese community on a programme of Tai Chi classes for cardiovascular exercise."

For more information contact Ali Askoy: ali@hcv.org.uk /Tel: 020 7923 8385

Have you made a New Year's Resolution to quit smoking? The NHS can help, and has lots of drop-in clinics running in Hackney where you can speak to a friendly advisor about the best way to quit. Wherever you live and whatever you do, you will be able to find drop-ins that suit you – even at weekends and during the evening. There are community clinics at Shoreditch Spa, some of which have Turkish/Polish/Russian speakers available. To find out more about these clinics call Fred Agbah on 0844 225 2054, or drop her an email: fred@shoreditchspa.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you!



Sector Spotlight

Hackney is a borough with a thriving voluntary and community sector staffed by excellent and committed staff. In this edition of Spark we catch up with three of them, Debbie Walker, Ashwin Mathews and Hazel Ellis. And in the next edition of Spark, we'll be profiling some of Hackney's dedicated volunteers.

Debbie Walker
Chief Executive >
Age UK East London



How long have you worked for Age UK?

I started in Age UK Tower Hamlets in 2003 and I took over the new Age UK East London (Hackney, Newham and Tower Hamlets) on 1 October 2011 which was the day it started.

What do you most like about Hackney?

I love areas like Hackney which have a diversity of people and cultures. I also like the history, the architecture and the museum.

What does Age UK East London do?

We offer a range of services and opportunities aimed at older people and their carers. Our services range from helping people to stay fit and prepare for later life, as well as practical services to help people stay in their own home. We also provide care services for those at the end of their life.

What projects are you developing in 2012?

We'll be taking a critical look at everything we are currently delivering, if it's good then we'll look to develop it but we won't be reinventing the wheel, if someone else already does something and does it well then we'll look to work with them and support what they do.

What are you most looking forward to this upcoming year?

Delivering the new organisation - it's obviously a challenge bringing together 3 different organisations but one that seems to be going well so far. We've got a great team of people, trustees, staff and volunteers who are positive about the changes we can make and the support we can give our services users.

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Ashwin Mathews
Director >
Centre for Better Health



How long have you worked for Centre for Better Health (CBH)?

I have been Director for a year and a half, having joined in May 2010.

What do you most like about Hackney?

I think Hackney's diversity is one of its greatest strengths and I particularly enjoy the delicious food and green spaces.

What does Centre for Better Health do?

CBH works to promote wellbeing and to support the recovery of individuals experiencing mental distress. It consists of a counselling service, a community hub and a social enterprise.

What projects will you be developing in 2012?

We are developing a Continuing Professional Development offer for professionals, counsellors and psychotherapists. We are also developing our community offer with mindfulness courses, jewellery making, art therapy and yoga plus developing our urban agriculture credentials by piloting a hydroponics project in association with the Farm:Shop.

What advice would you offer your colleagues in the VCS for 2012?

The third sector is undoubtedly in a difficult period, however we need to hold on to the knowledge that these things go in cycles. The situation will change again, and it is important not to lose sight of planning/restructuring despite the immediate challenges.

Contact:

ashwin@centreforbetterhealth.org.uk
www.centreforbetterhealth.org.uk

Hazel Ellis
Director >
Claudia Jones Organisation *



How long have you worked for CJO?
Almost 30 years

What do you most like about Hackney?
I like the history, culture, Hackney Empire and the way that certain areas come alive in the evening.

What does CJO do?
CJO focuses its work on promoting education among African-Caribbean women and families including; tuition in Music, Maths, English and Science, counselling, training, and advocacy.

Could you tell us about any new programmes you are developing?
We are planning a new and exciting project which will work intensively with children and their families focusing on the restoration of parent, child and school relationships to prevent damage to the child's development.

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I'm looking forward to CJO celebrating its achievements over the past 30 years"

What are you most looking forward to during 2012?

This coming year I'm looking forward to CJO celebrating its achievements over the past 30 years providing services to our community in and around Hackney and positive changes to the lives of young people in our community.

What advice would you offer your colleagues in the VCS for 2012?

We need to be positive and think that things will get better for the future. In the meantime we need to work more collectively if we are to maintain our services in these difficult times.

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Claudia Jones

*Claudia Jones was a political activist, a journalist and the 'Mother' of the Notting Hill Carnival. Describing her commitment to the fight for civil rights she stated: 'My mother, a machine worker in a garment factory, died when she was just the same age I am today – 37 years old. I think I began then to develop an understanding of the suffering of my people and my class and to look for a way to end them.'



Image courtesy of Royal Mail

Hackney CVS Conference Room, Meeting Room & Desk Space For Hire

Based in the heart of Dalston and on many bus routes, ours is the perfect venue to hold a meeting, training course or rent a desk. Excellent resources at affordable prices.



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Community Empowerment Network (CEN)

Most of us are wondering what 2012 will bring the voluntary and community sector in Hackney. With many groups folding or struggling for survival, and with the massive changes planned in health services and people's benefits the picture is by no means rosy. Whatever the challenges we all face, we will be striving to continue our support for networks to influence policy and empower organisations.

From Fuel Poverty to Equalities, Community Engagement to addressing the Health and Economic Needs of our communities - and in particular of those people who are most vulnerable, we are already planning events that will give voice to and support the action of our voluntary and community organisations.

The CEN is here to help networks, the VCS groups involved in them, and members and users of those groups, to make a positive and sustained impact on the lives of Hackney people. Mary Cannon, CEN Chair

CEN Strategic Networks

The CEN were last year pleased to be able to award nine community networks Strategic Network grants.

Funded through Team Hackney the grants of up to £3,000 have enabled the networks to take a focussed look at issues in their community that can be addressed through Team Hackney and relevant reviews and consultations.

All research will be finished by March 2012 and an event will be staged so the networks can report on their findings. The CEN website will also provide updates and fuller reports on the research.

Here we provide a brief profile of five of the networks awarded a grant.

Hackney Women's Forum

Has been investigating the impact of public sector cuts on vulnerable groups of women in Hackney. Economic disadvantage, social housing reform and health and well being are clearly identified issues that are being looked at. To conduct this research, the forum has trained representatives from women's organisations in the innovative practice of participatory appraisal.

Hackney Advice Forum

With the needs for advice services more acute than ever, Hackney Advice Forum is conducting a project to update information on client need. They are also looking at the independent advice sector as a whole and at future plans for the



Hackney Women's Forum has been investigating the impact of public sector cuts on vulnerable groups of women in Hackney."

sector. It is envisaged that the assessment of client need gathered through the study will contribute significantly to the targeting of mainstream resources in the most effective way.

Hackney Play Providers Network

Is conducting a project looking at new and existing models of play provision and how voluntary and statutory sector play providers can work together to maximise services for children and young people. They are conducting a major consultation exercise to investigate the needs of children, young people and families in the borough. They are also looking at how families may be affected by local government spending cuts. The findings will help launch a major report into future options for sustainable play in Hackney

Hackney Francophone Organisation Network

Has been looking at the needs of the Francophone community in Hackney, particularly in terms of accessing local services. The aim is for needs to be identified so the Network can work with statutory partners to help them understand better the needs of the community.

Black and Ethnic Minority Working Group

Has used their grant to organise workshops on TB for two BAMER communities. Each workshop, targeted at either the African or Turkish communities, has the aim of gathering information and also arming participants with tools and information to take back to their organisations.



The Tendering Process and the Added Value of the VCS

How can we ensure the tendering process recognises the added value that local voluntary sector organisations bring to the community?

In the voluntary and community sector we know that our work brings added value to the community over and above the core services we deliver. The VCS enjoys a closeness and trust amongst Hackney's diverse communities that has been built up over many years. This added value cannot be 'scaled up' and will not be easily replaced if it is lost.

But how can we ensure that this added value is recognised in the procurement process? Tendering is acknowledged to favour large organisations and it is recognised across the EU that small and medium enterprises generally are not faring well under the procurement rules.

The British Government has issued clear guidance to redress this. The Best Value Statutory Guidance (September 2011) states: 'We want to encourage public agencies and civil society to collaborate more, including greater involvement for voluntary and community organisation as well as small businesses in the running of public services.'

Also, the Guidance gives a clear duty to Local Authorities to, 'consider overall value, including

economic, environmental and social value, when reviewing service provision.'

Added social value has to be integral to a contract to be counted. Jenni Inglis, an independent consultant specialising in Social Return on Investment comments: 'Once any supplier has to bid on a scope and specification that has already been set, the opportunity to have their bid favoured on "added value" (is) limited.'

HSCF and Hackney CVS have highlighted the need to address social value in commissioning and procurement to the London Borough of Hackney which is currently considering its approach. At the moment there is nothing on the Council website which indicates it favours this approach.

If London Borough of Hackney is going to continue to tender out its services then we need to ensure that it builds in a really good system for measuring community benefits.

Jackie Brett
Health and Social Care Forum Coordinator
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www.hscf.org.uk

Hackney CEN: Clear Vision for Parents Campaign

Hackney CEN recently launched a review of the Voluntary and Community Sector services that offer support services to parents. Recognising the diversity of need, the CEN are examining current provision and potential gaps in services.

The launch of the review coincided with a packed CEN meeting on parenting. Speakers included Rachel Laurence from Save the Children, José Martin from Talking Matters Association and CYPF Chair Nathan Singleton. The presentations were followed by a lively debate.

The main findings from the meeting indicated the need to: raise families' aspirations and educational attainment, improve health and wellbeing for families, value parent's roles, skills

and knowledge as parents, address families' housing needs, increase access to employment opportunities and support parents to be active citizens in their local community.

Over fifty voluntary sector organisations have now completed profiles for the Clear Vision for Parents Campaign. Information so far shows that 40% of respondents work in more than one area of supporting parents. Once fully collated, profiles will be published on the CEN website and the information will be used to raise issues at policy level in Hackney and to influence local priorities.

The CEN and relevant forums will now be holding focus groups on the many issues that came out of the meeting to further inform the discussion at every level.

For a full report on the meeting please visit: www.hackneycen.org.uk To complete a profile or for more info email: andrea@hcv.org.uk

Welcome

It's a warm welcome to Hackney CVS' new Trustees, Thomas Bubi and Dominic Ellison.

Thomas Bubi

Where are you from?

I am from the Democratic Republic of Congo.



What organisations do you work for?

Since 2002, I have been a Co-ordinator for an organisation called African Support and Project Centre (ASPC) working for the benefits of African Refugees and asylum seekers including migrants.

What do you like about Hackney?

I like the cultural diversity.

Your experience of Hackney CVS?

I believe that I am well connected to the Hackney CVS staff and volunteers through the different events and training we have organised with them over the past 10 years. I understand the voluntary sector environment, the different policies and procedures and the different changes in the sector.

Why did you want to be a Trustee?

Becoming a Hackney CVS Trustee is a good opportunity for me to improve my understanding of the sector and to share my knowledge with the other Trustees.

Why are you passionate about the voluntary and community sector?

My passion through working with my community is to empower them to be well integrated with the British society because there are a lot of challenges we are facing as refugees and we work most of the time on a voluntary basis (without salary).

Dominic Ellison

Where are you from?

I am originally from Wigan, Lancashire.



What organisations do you work for?

I am the Managing Director at Hackney Co-operative Developments CIC, a co-operative development agency which supports new and developing co-operatives, as well as social enterprises, charities and small businesses.

I am also a Director of London Co-op Development, a Director of Co-operatives London, and a Director of the Vortex Jazz Club which is based in Dalston Culture House.

What do you like about Hackney?

Hackney is a vibrant and exciting place to be. Hackney has, for many years, attracted both migrant and creative communities, which share a characteristic for innovative enterprise. This means there is always something new and fascinating to discover.

What inspired you to become a Hackney CVS Trustee?

I really wanted to bring my experience of supporting social enterprise to help strengthen the support that Hackney CVS offers the sector. I have broad experience in the health and social care sector and want to continue building the capacity of community organisations to deliver public services.

Why are you passionate about the community and voluntary sector?

In my experience, many key services are best delivered by the third sector. When communities are empowered to find their own solutions to social need, the result is services that put the recipient at the heart. At the same time communities build and strengthen around assets created to meet the community's needs.

Working in the community and voluntary sector gives me the opportunity to work with people who are driven by a passion for helping other people. We may not always agree about the right solutions, but we all have a common goal, which is about making communities fairer and more resilient.

BEMA Fundraiser

Last December bore witness to the first of hopefully many arts fundraisers, courtesy of the joint effort of Black & Ethnic Minority Arts (BEMA), Arcola Theatre and Focus organisation.

An impressive and diverse range of local talent converged on the Arcola Tent in Dalston and the experienced professionals mixed easily with eager newcomers and even the audience was roped into being part of the performances!

Acts included Fresh Frenchy, Emashi African-Dance and London Borough of Hackney Olympic & Paralympic Unit, and the event was supported generously by actress Judith Jacob and Doctor Sandra Richards, to name only a few of those involved. BEMA's Ngoma Bishop, who was compere for the event commented: 'the atmosphere, vibes and energy was red hot.'



Fundraising at the Arcola

Halkevi Centre Opening

On Friday 9th December Halkevi Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre celebrated its opening after moving premises from the old site on Downham Road in Islington to its new location on Dalston Lane. The centre celebrated its opening with a feast to fit the occasion and a bright and colourful display of art.

The centre provides advice and interpretation, Kurdish language classes, an older people's lunch club, health surgeries, legal advice sessions and aims to provide a comprehensive service for the Kurdish/Turkish refugee communities in London and cater for their welfare, social health and educational needs.

Speakers at the event included former Mayor of London Ken Livingstone who commented: 'the average Londoner is not a banker... we should recognise the contribution of all Londoners.'



Artwork at the Halkevi

Dalston C.L.R. James Library

The new Dalston C.L.R. James Library opened its doors for the first time in January after relocating from its previous premises. Double the size of the previous building, the new library will be one of the UK's largest public lending libraries. The opening follows a successful campaign led by the Black and Ethnic Arts Network (BEMA) to ensure the council retained the name of the famous Afro-Trinidadian Caribbean writer and social campaigner when it reopened in the new £4.4 million premises.

The Hackney Library Services are now working with BEMA and community coalition, Hackney Unites, to ensure that the legacy of C.L.R. James is celebrated. Plans include a teaching resource for schools, the launch of a C.L.R. James Memorial exhibition and an inaugural C.L.R. James lecture in March.



Hackney's new library

Guardian journalist Gary Younge will be the first speaker for the lecture series.

For more information contact BEMA: bemaadmin@hcv.org.uk / www.clrjameslegacyproject.org.uk

Community Diary

For weekly events updates sign up to our electronic newsletters via our websites:
www.hcvs.org.uk / www.hackneycen.org.uk

February 2012

Thu 9th: 2pm – 3.30pm

Community Safeguarding Strategy Group:
assessing parents' and children's needs.
@ Hackney CVS, 84 Springfield House, E8 2LY

Tue 21st: 10.30am – 1.30pm

Get Active for Wellbeing Conference:
interactive event for getting active @ St Paul's
Church, Stoke Newington Road, N16 7UY

Wed 22nd: 10am - 1pm

CEN: Equality Objectives Debate: (see p. 6)
@ The Tomlinson Centre, London E8 3ND

Thur 23rd: 10am - 12.30pm – 3.30pm

Community Safeguarding Strategy Group:
@ Hackney CVS, 84 Springfield House, E8 2LY

Mon 27th : 9.45am – 12.15pm

Meet the Funder workshops: Top Tips.
@ Hackney CVS, 84 Springfield House, E8 2LY

Tue 28th: 2pm – 5pm

CEN & ROTA: Shaping the Future: Race and
Racism in the 21st century: (see p. 7)
@ The Tomlinson Centre, London E8 3ND

March 2012

Thur 1st: 1.15pm - 3.30pm

CYPFF: Children's Health Commissioning
@ Hackney CVS, 84 Springfield House, E8 2LY

Ready Steady Go: a three day programme
for new voluntary sector organisations. You
will learn about Hackney's local environment
and about key legal and organisational issues.

Mon 5th: Day 1: Mon 12th: Day 2:

Mon 19th: Day 3: All days run 10am - 1pm

Wed 7th : 9.30am - 4.30 pm

Develop a Sustainable Fundraising Strategy
@ Hackney CVS, 84 Springfield House, E8 2LY

For more info on courses: info@hcvs.org.uk

Become a Safeguarding Champion with Hackney CVS

Hackney CVS believes that safeguarding children and young people is everyone's responsibility. Over the next three months we will be working across Hackney offering culturally sensitive services to support young people and parents via out of hours (evening & weekend) services.

For more information contact Kristine Wellington:
kristine@hcvs.org.uk / 020 7923 1962

Become a Spark volunteer

SPARK is looking for budding writers, photographers and designers to join team. If you are looking to build up your portfolio or just keen to lend your skills then we'd love to hear from you.

Contact: matt@hcvs.org.uk / 020 7923 1962

Arsenal in the Community

Passionate about sport?
Want to make a difference?

Then take time out to find
out about Arsenal
Volunteering opportunities.



Includes Soccer Schools, 4Sport, Bowls, Disability
Projects, and Gap Programmes.

To find out more please contact John Olaleye on 020
7704 4159 or email: jolaleye@arsenal.co.uk

Find us >
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Hackney CVS is funded by:

