

## Community Xchange: Newham UK / Beijing China - January-May 2010

Community Xchange is an international professional development programme for formal and informal community practitioners. Through a range of activities Community Xchange aims to build the skills of participants to facilitate the positive participation of young people as active global citizens, and develop inter cultural dialogue that makes a positive difference to their communities.

**We are inviting employees or community practitioners with full support from their employer / organization / community to take part in Community Xchange Newham UK / Beijing China January – May 2010. Its free!**

We aim to work in partnership with local organisations in the UK to identify host communities and participants and to achieve impact at three levels: on the individual participant; their organisation; and within their community. The **Newham UK / Beijing China** programme will therefore be managed in consultation with a Newham based advisory board, comprised of representatives from local government, education sector and the voluntary sector and China based implementing partner Volunteer Committee.

Teams of 30 community workers and activists, with equal numbers from the UK and an overseas partner country, work in host communities for **3 weeks in the UK** and **3 weeks in the overseas country**. Over the course of an exchange participants take part in work attachments, job shadowing, and community events to promote active citizenship among young people.

### Details of the programme

The programme will recruit up to 15 participants from **Newham, UK** who will each be matched with a counterpart from **Beijing, China** based on their professional skills and interests. The programme will promote reciprocity to ensure that aspects of the programme are mirrored in the UK and China.

The participant will act on behalf of their organization or community to undertake a three week work attachment programme in Beijing and develop and implement a reciprocal three week programme of activity for their counterpart whilst they are in Newham.

The programme requires a **minimum of 45 working days of commitment between late January – May 2010** for the participating member, in full agreement with their organization or community and comprises of the following components:

Activity	Learning Outcome	Proposed dates
<b>Introductory Training Course</b> (ITC) in Newham	To initiate local networking, undertake a community diagnosis, consider the links between local and global community issues and ways of cross-cultural working.	21 <sup>st</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2010 <b>(2 days)</b>
<b>Online collaboration</b> between UK and Chinese counterparts	To introduce each other and begin communication	25 <sup>th</sup> Jan – 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2010 <b>(3 weeks; excludes 1 week Chinese Spring Festival 14-21 Feb)</b>
<b>UK phase</b> of the exchange programme: UK groups to host their counterparts in their organization in Newham	Work Attachment Plan (WAP) will give participants the opportunity to share and collaborate their ways of working in a cross cultural context.	27 <sup>th</sup> Feb – 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2010 <b>(3 weeks)</b>
<b>Interim period</b> - Continued online collaboration of UK / Chinese counterpart pairs	To maintain and develop links and understanding in preparation for the second phase	22 <sup>nd</sup> March – 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2010 <b>(4 weeks)</b>
<b>Evaluation</b> of first phase of the programme	To evaluate learning so far and plan for the second phase of the programme	2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2010 tbc

<b>Chinese phase</b> of the programme: Chinese groups to host their counterparts in their organization in Beijing for three weeks	As above	17 <sup>th</sup> April – 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2010 <b>(3 weeks)</b>
<b>Final review meeting</b>	To evaluate the outcomes of the programme as a whole and look at sustainability	Late May 2010 tbc

### Desired Impact

- Promote **intercultural dialogue** through meaningful two way dialogue and reciprocal activities
- Support the **participation** of large numbers of **young people** globally as active citizens
- **Strengthen relations** between **UK** and **overseas communities**
- Deliver benefits to communities by **strengthening existing community development initiatives**, promoting **community cohesion**; and encouraging **community participation**
- Build **active networks** and dialogues that did not exist before
- **Challenge perceptions and stereotypes** of other global communities
- Promote the contribution of **volunteering** to communities
- Increase the **effectiveness** of **community leaders** in **facilitating learning** and **positive social action** and measuring the impact of community initiatives
- **Disseminate learning** and best practice from the exchange to the wider community

### Participant profile

The participant must:

- Be a UK national / able to travel overseas legally
- Be 18 years or above
- Have an active role in communities in Newham (be involved with your current organisation for at least 6 months)
- Be willing to fund raise up to £350 for the work of Global Xchange
- Have experience working with young people and capacity to influence groups of young people
- Be informal or formal leader / practitioner / worker
- Have organizational support and agreement for the duration of the programme to ensure that they are able to continue to use the skills and expertise for the benefit of their communities once the exchange is completed.
- Have full support of their managers to participate in the programme

For information on Community Xchange, please contact the following:

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### What is Global Xchange?

Global Xchange is a partnership programme managed and delivered by the British Council, VSO, and a number of local partners around the world. We develop and deliver international volunteer exchanges and other activities to help create active global citizens who value volunteering, diversity, community development and social action.

**The Global Xchange Vision is...** Young people in their communities around the world, together creating conversations, making choices and taking action to consciously shape their own destiny.