

“ I welcome the independence of the Third Sector”

At the last meeting of One Newham Many Voices we were pleased to welcome Joe Duckworth, Chief Executive of Newham Council.

This is the first time that a CE of the Council has taken the time out to meet the sector and we hope that this heralds a more positive approach.

Joe spoke at length about the Councils vision for the Borough - and it was clear that the Sector also wishes to be involved in the vision. Newham is a very exciting place to be and Joe spoke about the regeneration - and not just in Stratford, the number of new jobs, the opportunities that will come with new developments and the commitment of the Council. Stratford City alone promises to provide 30,000 new jobs.

Joe also spoke about the challenges - and they are many - in moving the borough forward.

It was interesting to hear where the Council saw the involvement of the sector. Joe recognised and welcomed the independence of the Sector, how better placed we were to deliver some of the services that are currently delivered by the Council.

Communication seemed to be an issue that came up time and time again. Lack of responses by Council officers is frustrating, not knowing who to speak to, not understanding the new structures were all things that Joe promised to look at.

He also assured us that the response to the review of the Grants to Commissioning was imminent.

During the question and answer session colleagues raised specific issues which included:

- The difficulties with the Personalisation Agenda**
- Lack of any response to Sector Specific Consultations.**
- Lack of resources to New Communities**
- Lack of commitment to the Third Sector**
- Transparency of decision making - especially around Collaborative Bids**

Joe promised, that through regular dialogue with the sector, he and his officers would try and address the issues raised - either directly with the organisation or through NVSC.

Paul Leslie thanked Joe and looked forward to a positive relationship and a renewed recognition that the sector were valued partners.

I am pleased to say that within days of this meeting the Council produced its response to the Commissioning review and it can be found, along with the actual review report on our website - www.nvsc.org.uk

At the meeting we also elected 2 people to represent the Sectors on the Children's Trust. They are: **Marcia Samuels and Paul Leslie.** Their Deputies will be Jude Simmonds and Baljit Banga.

The meeting also unanimously agreed the process for electing their reps to the Newham Partnership Board, which had been circulated.

We also agreed that the One Newham Meetings would be held 6 times a year and would be hosted in venues across the borough.

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Grassroots Grants*

Plus...

*One Newham Many Voices
Agenda for the next meeting*

and more...

Sarah Ruiz - Director

contacts

NVSC - General Office

020 8519 9500
www.nvsc.org.uk

Director

Sarah Ruiz
(sarah@nvsc.org.uk)
020 8522 5352

Policy & Partnership Manager

Ali Ahmed
(ali@nvsc.org.uk)
020 8522 5358
(Ali is currently on secondment to
Tower Hamlets Council)

East London C.V.S. Network

Coordinator

Andrea Chott
(andrea.chott@elcvsnetwork.co.uk)
020 8519 9500 ext. 2

Coordinator

Maneesha Sharma
(changeupelp@elcvsnetwork.co.uk)
020 8519 9500 ext. 2

Adminstrator

Josephine Mason
(josephine.mason@elcvsnetwork.co.uk)
020 8519 9500 ext. 2

Volunteers

James
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Funding

The Big Lottery Fund - Big Thinking

Following a six month consultation and development process, the Big Lottery has unveiled its new strategic framework 'Big Thinking - Our Strategic Framework to 2015'.

The Framework sets out the principles which will underpin BIG's approach to funding in the UK in the next six years and will shape and influence the funding arrangements and the activities that support them.

To find out more about Big Thinking, how it will affect Lottery funding and view feedback from the consultation process visit The Big Lottery Fund website:
<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk>

Funding Central Website Launched

A new funding website, Funding Central, has been launched to support voluntary and community groups and social enterprises to access funding opportunities and provide tools and guidance which help groups to develop sustainable income strategies.

Funding Central is managed by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in partnership with j4b Software and Publishing and is Government funded through the Office of the Third Sector.

Through the site organisations can access opportunities from charities, trusts, European, national, regional and local government funding as well as finding out more about income potential from upcoming contracts.

To find out more and register visit the site at
<http://www.fundingcentral.org.uk>

Volunteer Management

Funded through CapacityBuilders, the VNC is actively looking to support Volunteer Coordinators - if you would like to participate in this new project please contact:

The Volunteer Network Centre on 020 8536 1937 or
gurdialbhamra@vncnewham.co.uk.

Over £200k to Newham Groups

Since September 2008; Grassroots Grants awarded in excess of £200,000 to community groups in Newham.

The panel, which is composed entirely from representatives from the Third Sector, meets on a quarterly basis to assess applications sent in by groups eager to benefit from a grant.

It is funded by the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and administered by the Community Development Foundation (CDF).

The next deadline is 5pm on the 22nd January 2010

Quarter 3 funded groups:

Name of Group	Amount Awarded
Art for Fun	£5000
British Korean Veterans Association	£2000
Fit and Healthy Elders Projects of East Ham	£2084
Flanders Football Club	£4,820
Helping Hands for Refugees and Disabled	£4,874
London School of Martial Arts	£2,523.45
London School of Tamil & Culture	£4,621.00
Newham Africa and Caribbean Careers Forum	£1,098.21
Newham Pakistani Community Forum	£1,190.00
Somali Women's Advice Network	£2,858.00
The Hub Management & Social Committee	£2,363.00

For an application pack, please contact Sarah Ruiz on 020 8519 9500 or email Sarah@nvsc.org.uk, Alternatively you can download an application pack from, <http://www.nvsc.org.uk>

Advance to Deliver

Over the next 3 years, Community groups and smaller Voluntary Groups will have the opportunity to access support to help them become more sustainable. Funded through the Lottery, and delivered through the Newham ChangeUp Partnership, the Advance to Deliver Project will be offering one to one support across the Borough, targeted training and the opportunity to explore building partnerships.

The 3 Capacity Builders will be hosted by Aston Mansfield, NVSC and The Forum for Health and Wellbeing will be holding surgeries across the borough and groups will be able to make an appointment.

In addition to the one to one support, the project will also deliver various seminars, workshops and opportunities to network and share good practice.

Capacity Builders across the borough will also gain from the project as they will be able to access training in specialist areas, increase their knowledge and have access to information on additional support that will be available.

The Advance to Deliver Team will be available for appointments from mid January. To make an appointment or to find out more about what the project can offer your group then please contact:

Sarah Ruiz - 0208 519 9500

Abdul Malik - 0207 473 9510

Kevin Blowe - 0208 536 3825

As the project develops there will be information on our website.

The next meeting of One Newham Many Voices will be held on:

**THURSDAY 21ST JANUARY
2.00PM - 4.00PM
THE HARTLEY CENTRE
267 BARKING ROAD. EAST HAM. E6 1LB**

The proposed Agenda is.

1. Presentation of the Sustainable Community Strategy
2. Report back from the Newham Partnership Board/ LAPB's
3. Election Process - Newham Partnership Board, update
4. Review of the LAPB's - update
5. Guest Speaker - Paul Barasi, Local Compact Voice Officer, Compact Voice
6. Commissioning - update on where we are.
7. Open Floor

There will also be an opportunity to learn more about the Councils interactive website - where you can advertise your activities and events - Jim Kenworth will show you how you can upload your information.

These meetings are open to all of Newham's Voluntary, Faith and Community Organisations and they give you the opportunity to find out what's new, what's happening and to raise relevant issues. There will be plenty of time to network

The Meeting will be Chaired by Paul Leslie - NVSC Chair

Tea and Coffee will be available from 1.45pm

NVSC Board Members

If you are interested in becoming more involved with NVSC, we do have 2 vacancies. The NVSC Board is made up of equal numbers from each of our constituent members. We have vacancies for people representing Community organisations or Faith organisations.

The Board meets every six weeks, normally during the day. The meetings are for 2.5 hours. You need to be a Newham based group and be registered on our database.

We are particularly keen to recruit more women to the Board as they are under represented.

If you are interested and would like to have an informal chat please do give me a call on 0208 519

The Newham Compact was launched 3 years ago, but has never really lived up to its promise.

For those of us who sweated blood and tears to develop the document, it seems as if all that hard work was for nothing more than window dressing.

The Compact Implementation Group meets on a regular basis, but really needs reviewing, or at least a renewal of commitment.

At a recent event which brought together the Compact Champions from the Council, Health and the Police we all agreed that the Compact needs to get better press, more champi-

ons and needs to be properly used by all partners, and that includes the Third Sector.

The Compact should be used by all partners when for example they make any decisions, and that includes consultation, that has an impact on the Sector. So for example, the last Commissioning round was not Compact Compliant, there was a review and the Council have accepted that they need to change the way they commission services, and the Compact Implementation Group will be monitoring the progress and helping the Council to make it better for you. There is a disputes procedure, which has been put in

place to deal with any breach of the Compact. One of the biggest issues appears to be a lack of knowledge by all partners of the Compact.

All documents relating to the Compact can be found on www.newhamcompact.org.uk

Paul Barasi will be helping the Sector get more out of the Compact, giving examples of good practice, encouraging participation and generally helping us to help ourselves - he is our guest speaker at the One Newham Many Voices meeting on the 21st January, so come and hear what he has to say and then we can all make the Compact work for us.

Review of the LAPB's

Over the past 6 months, the Newham Partnership Board have been reviewing the LAPB structure. They appointed Shared Intelligence to undertake this review.

The report was agreed at a meeting of the NPB in November.

There are many things in the report that we agree with, however, the report significantly affects the way in which the sector participates.

The review has decreased the number of Boards from 6 to 4, so we have lost Building an Active and Inclusive Community and Shaping Sustainable Communities. It suggests

that there are other forums to take the agenda forward, but does not recognise that these forums do not report to the NPB and therefore are not seen as having any influence on the strategic agenda.

Before the review the LAPB's were encouraged to elect Third Sector reps - this has now been replaced with a commitment to include, but no process, and although electing reps, with specific skills are mentioned, there is an equal emphasis on selecting. So if for example the LAPB does not have the knowledge about the sector, as some don't, then the LAPB could be excluding groups with

specific skills and knowledge simply because they don't know about them. There is nothing to say that the Third Sector has to be represented.

Equally there is no recognition about resourcing the voice and representation of the Third Sector's involvement.

Significantly this review has not been Compact compliant - and promise that it would come out to the sector, or at the very least be discussed at each LAPB, did not happen.

Your elected reps on the NPB will be raising this. In the meantime we will continue to try and participate, where and when we can.

African Future Development

African Future Development is a registered charity working towards reducing poverty and disadvantage faced by African communities in order to overcome barriers to social exclusion and improve their quality of life. Based at the Froud Community Centre in Manor Park, AFD runs the following activities: Information, advice and guidance on education, training and employment, interpretation and translation services, supplementary school, youth mentoring programme, basic IT/computer skills training, adult literacy and numeracy classes, free computer access and referrals and signposting.

AFD Supplementary School is one of the main projects started in 2005 following the community needs assessment. The supplementary school helps children improve their school attainments and overcome educational barriers. It encourages children, particularly those

newly arrived in Britain, to interact with others, develop their communication skills and make friends.

Through the hard work of motivated staff and volunteers, the school has grown from strength to strength. From 17 pupils and 3 members of teaching team in 2005, the school currently teaches 95 children aged between 5 and 16 every week with 4 sessional teachers and 18 active volunteers. It focuses on the core curriculum subjects of English, Mathematics and Science as well as individual learning and homework support.

Run on Saturdays from the community centre premises, the school was previously open to black African children from refugee and asylum seeking families of the London Borough of Newham. The school has become so popular that its remit has been broadened to

include children from other minority ethnic communities and living in other Boroughs of East London. Therefore, classes are run in a friendly and supportive learning environment. The learners' needs are assessed when they first attend the supplementary school and the children are placed within their particular age and ability group. Children are encouraged to provide peer support and also to volunteer once they are over 16 year-old.

The school is keen on building working partnership with local schools. They will appreciate if you could get in touch.

To find out more about AFD Supplementary School, please visit www.afdevelopment.org or contact Mr Belvien Tankala on 020 8478 0001 or info@afdevelopment.org

Competition

The winner of the Competition in our last newsletter is The Renewal Programme. We asked you to tell us what you do in your organisation to "save the environment" the Renewal Programme came up with a very impressive list - and all of their ideas were very simple for us all to adopt. Here is just a sample:

Offer a cycling allowance to those who have to travel around for their work.

We have stopped using bottled and/or electrically cooled water and use tap water, sometimes filtered.

We have eco-kettles which boil one cup of water at a time when needed, and a Tefal Quick Cup for coffee or fruit tea which doesn't need boiling water.

Instead of paper towels, we use cotton or bamboo towels and tea towels, changed daily and washed every week

We use eco cleaning products where possible.

We print only when necessary, then on both sides of the paper.

Paper which has been pre-printed on one side only is used for scrap.

We sort our waste and recycle as much as possible.

We recycle cartridges.

Ann Easter will collect her prize of a bagful of "We are What We Do" goodies at the next One Newham Many Voices meeting on the 21st of January.

Play Forum

The next meeting of the **Newham Play Forum** is on **Friday the 29th of January** from **10.00am - 1.00pm**.

The meeting will be held at **Outdoors in the City, Canning Town Recreation Ground**, (entrance in Freemasons Road) Canning Town E16.

The play forum is open to any **Third Sector organization**, based in Newham and providing play opportunities for children. This is an informal forum where issues around play are discussed and are fed in to other initiatives, such as **Playbuilders** and **Aiming High**.

At the meeting in January there will be a discussion and feedback on the **Play London** initiative and how they can help and assist us in Newham to put play back on the agenda.

Also at this meeting we will be holding the election for the vacant **Third Sector representative place** on the **Early Years and Childcare Development Partnership**.

Lunch will be available.

Opportunity to network with other play providers in the borough.

Newham Council: Have your Say

Sustainable Community Strategy. This Strategy is key to all future developments and funding in the Borough. Although it states that the closing date is the 15th of January, it has been extended to the 21st of January. There will also be a presentation on the Strategy at the **One Newham Many Voices** meeting. you can download the strategy from

<http://www.newham.gov.uk/YourCouncil/CorporatePlans/ConsultationonNewhamsSustainableCommunityStrategy.htm>.

The second consultation may be of interest, as it concerns changes to the **Schools Admissions Policy**.

<http://www.newham.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/Schools/Consultationonschooladmissions.htm>.

The **DCFS** require a census return of all positive activities open to young people during the week beginning 1st February 2010. This is the first of a series of such exercises to assess the achievement of **NI 110: "Young people's participation in positive activities"**.

If you would like your activities to be entered in the survey please email: Dave.stevens@newham.gov.uk.

And last but not least

SACRE - Standard Advisory Committee for Religious Education has a vacancy through **NVSC**. If you represent a **Faith organisation** and would like to sit on this committee please contact: Sarah@nvsc.org.uk



4in10 Launches Newham Campaign

Following many months of consultation with our supporters in the borough, our Newham campaign launched in October 2009. We are calling for:

Kit for Kids

The cost of school clothing cuts deep into the budgets of Newham families, leaving many children without a winter coat or a decent pair of winter shoes. A survey conducted by Save the Children and Family Action revealed that 67% of London parents questioned earning under £12,000 said they would not be able to afford everything their children need. We are therefore calling for Newham Council to provide a school clothing grant of £50 per year to all children in workless households in the borough. 43% of the UK's local authorities, Newham excluded, currently provide school clothing grants.

A Fair Deal for Newham Children

Schools in Hackney and Tower Hamlets presently receive over £1,000 more per child per year in their funding from central government than their counterparts in Newham. We know Newham teachers and other school staff are doing their absolute best with the resources they have, and this is reflected in the borough's levels of educational attainment at age 16. But with the funding its schools deserve, Newham children could have the resources to achieve even more. This is why, with a review of schools funding already underway, we are asking the government to allocate £1,000 more funding per child per year to bring Newham's school's funding more in line with that of Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

Better Homes for Newham Families

Newham currently has approximately 6,600 children growing up in temporary accommodation. With Newham Council owning just 100 of these temporary homes, thousands of Newham families are now living in properties owned and managed by private landlords. 4in10 has found many of these landlords are neglecting their basic responsibilities to their tenants, providing substandard homes and failing to carry out basic repairs. Research shows that bad housing damages children's lives and can impact on everything from their health to their educational attainment. We are therefore working to name and shame these private management agents in the hope that we can get them to sign up to a decent homes charter.

We need your support!

Please take a few minutes to sign our petitions and email a local decision maker by visiting www.4in10.org.uk/takeaction, or call the campaigns team on 020 7278 6676 to find out how you can get involved.