

WELCOME!

Welcome to the quarterly edition of the East London CVS Network [ELN E-News

Special Interest Article

ELN – The Present, The Past and The Future

Individual Highlights:

- Borough News
- Consulting the Capital
- Convergence – 5 Host Boroughs
- Updates

THE PRESENT, THE PAST AND THE FUTURE

We've much to be proud of at the East London CVS Network [ELN]. 2009 has been a busy year, as no doubt it has been for many of you. We have developed some powerful partnerships and relationships with organisations that appreciate the fact that we share their outlook as well as their geographic boundaries. We have worked tirelessly over the past year, clocking up many hours of toil! But always with the end goal of ensuring east Londons' third sector has a voice, at the metaphoric round table of decision making.

Some of our 2009 achievements include;

- Three cross sector workshops on the fast approaching Transforming Social Care Agenda. These workshops were aimed at equipping the third and public sector for the introduction of personal budgets and saw ELN working in partnership with Skills for Care.
- The development of the interactive CD-ROM 'Plan for Success'. Developed in conjunction with some of our borough based CVS partners, and the North London CVS Network, the CD-ROM was distributed to 8,000 third sector organisations across east and north London and was packed full of useful tools and resources to enable east Londons' third sector weather the tide of the economic

downturn.

- The Olympics Symposium, which was attended by over 50 third sector organisations, and held at the London Development Agencies [LDA] Olympics head quarters in Canary Wharf. This event saw us teaming up with the LDA, to give third sector organisations the opportunity to voice their views and contribute to the 2012 legacy.
- There have been some staff changes with fellow colleague Alice Wallace, taking up a secondment opportunity with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, leaving us to help them develop a strategy for the boroughs Third Sector.

The Present

Maneesha Sharma started with us in August this year, bringing a new fresh dynamic to the team.

- We are building stronger relationships with the 5 Host Boroughs Unit and the newly established Olympic Park legacy Company.
- The sub- regional Changeup Partnership has seen increased and consistent attendance allowing us to develop and explore new and exciting opportunities for cross sector and cross borough working.
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- We have settled into our new offices in Stratford and waiting expectantly for the new Westfield shopping centre to open!
- More importantly however, we are in the final stages of developing our priorities for the coming 18 months, that in this period of economic uncertainty, and the prospect of a new Government, presents us with some very challenging decisions.

The future

The vision for East London's future growth and expansion is vast, and over the next 20 years, we will experience rapid population increase as the proposed 80,000 new homes in the Thames Gateway come to fruition. Our focus is to better understand better the vision of the Government, London Boroughs, and the various Olympics and Thames Gateway bodies to ensure that the local communities and the 10,000 third sector organisations that serve them benefit from the opportunities available and are able to contribute as equal partners to a vision for east London.

We know the third sector is crucial in this, helping to build cohesive communities, where people choose to live and work. ELN binds together the third sector across the sub-region creating an equal partner for the public and private sectors to engage with.

In this area of great opportunity things move fast. Our role is not only to help build the third sector in east London, but to ensure they don't get left behind. 2010 and beyond is a very exciting time for us and, for all of east London's third sector.

We hope to continue and build on our achievements in the years ahead, working for you and with you.

On behalf of the team at ELN we hope you find this issue enjoyable and useful.

Seasons Greetings

From
The ELN Team

We always welcome feedback, so any comments you have please complete the attached form and send them in to us at adminsupport@elcvsnetwork.org.uk

GREENWICH ACTION FOR VOLUNTARY SERVICE (GAVS) - FINALLY: A CVS FOR GREENWICH

Finally Greenwich has a fully established and operating CVS. GAVS, Greenwich Action for Voluntary Service, is delivering services to voluntary, community and faith organisations at full force and actively representing the third sector in the political and strategic life of Greenwich.

The current organisation was registered as a charity in December 2007. Since that time a great deal of work has been carried out by local representatives of the third sector to develop a viable and thriving CVS. GAVS started its capacity building work in April 2009 and has with the recent appointment of the Chief

Executive in September started to take on its role around facilitation of representation. GAVS' support includes accountancy services, face-to-face development support and advice, various forum meetings, a quarterly magazine, Olympics engagement and website with an online resource library; the new training programme for January to June 2010 has just been launched.

For more information about GAVS please visit www.greenwich-cvs.org.uk, phone 020 8858 1363 or email info@gavs.biz

THE BIG GIVE - REED FOUNDATION MATCH CHALLENGE

East London Community Foundation needs your help to build their grants fund for local community and voluntary led organisations in the following boroughs: **Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge, Havering, Haringey and Waltham Forest.**

For one week only, from **10am, 7th December 2009 until 5pm 11th December 2009** for every £5 you give to East London Community Foundation it will be matched pound for pound from the Reed Foundation Match Challenge and then further matched to our Grassroots Endowment. Add gift aid, and your donation of £5 will be worth £22.82. If you are a higher rate tax payer you

can claim tax relief too. **Only those donations made during the specific week can be quadrupled.**

To secure the entire available match funding we are looking to raise a total of £18,000+ during the specific period of: 10am 7th December until 5pm 11th December. On-Line between £5 (five pounds) and £5,000 (five thousand pounds) are eligible for the match funding and must be made on-line on the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/support-elcf>

For more information contact Helen Robertson on 0300 303 1203 or email Helen@elcf.org.uk

CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT FOR A THRIVING THIRD SECTOR IN TOWER HAMLETS

Tower Hamlets Council is about to launch its new Third Sector Strategy. This Strategy is a Council document and is focused primarily on improving Council practice. However, the Action Plan goes a long way to delivering a partnership approach towards developing the Third Sector in the borough. This includes establishing a Third Sector Advisory Board which has a membership of 17 key Third Sector Organisations and is chaired by Lutfur Ali, the Assistant Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council.

Consultation and data analysis has highlighted 5 key areas in which the Council can make a real difference to the Third Sector. These are:

1. **Infrastructure:** Third Sector Organisations need access to good quality affordable support in order to fulfil their potential. The Council is now working with partners to develop a new Council for Voluntary Services [CVS]. Recruitment for Board members is currently taking place.
2. **Volunteering:** People giving their time and energy, unpaid for the benefit of society is seen by the Council as a powerful force for change. We are looking to support the Third Sector to achieve the highest standards when involving volunteers, and to increase the capacity of statutory sector organisations to host volunteers.
3. **Voice and representation:** The Third Sector has a key role in improving service delivery and enabling the voices of the

community to be heard. We are working to establish clear processes that enable the Third Sector to be effectively represented.

4. **Commissioning and funding:** our objective for the funding of Third Sector Organisations is that the process should be transparent, efficient and reflect local need. We will improve our procurement practice and also establish a small grants funding scheme. We are reviewing our Mainstream Grants process to make it more accessible and will shortly be undertaking an Equalities Impact Assessment.
5. **Premises:** our objective is to support high quality premises. In order to do this we are commissioning research to establish the key premises requirement priorities of the Third Sector.

The Strategy is to be launched on Tuesday 8th December – please contact

Hilary.hughes@towerhamlets.gov.uk for more information and/or to book.

For more information on the implementation of the Strategy please contact alice.wallace@towerhamlets.gov.uk

CONSULTING THE CAPITAL: LONDON COUNCILS VOLUNTARY SECTOR COMMISSIONING PROGRAMME 2011-15

London Councils have begun the consultation process that will shape its commissioning priorities from 2011 – 2015. Working on behalf of London's boroughs London Councils distributes £26 million funding to the third sector in London each year.

London Councils is now seeking your views on its proposed 6 challenges which are up for consultation;

1. Helping Londoners live longer, healthier and more independent lives
2. Reducing the impact of crime – including violence against women and children, supporting preventative approaches, and helping victims to re-build their lives
3. Creating an environmentally sustainable London
4. Increasing prosperity and helping the poorest Londoners, lift their lives out of poverty
5. Ensuring everyone, including young people achieve their full potential
6. Promoting stronger, more empowered and cohesive communities and increasing levels of participation in London's public life and cultural activities

Consultation events are taking place across the sub region and London Councils are seeking your view on

1. The challenges in London that

our funding should tackle

2. Whether the services they fund at the moment are the right ones and if not how they should be updated
3. The differences their funding makes to local people, the voluntary sector and other organisations working to support Londoners
4. How their funding can help local people and organisations get through the recession

Get involved

Consultation events are taking place now until the end of December, but an online consultation will allow you to contribute until January 29th 2010.

You can find out more details and sign up to attend consultation events on the London Councils website; www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/grants or call 0207 934 9622

Read more about our proposals and complete our online survey on our website

www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/grants if

you would like the documents in a different format please call 0207 934 9622 or e-mail

funding@londoncouncils.gov.uk

THE STRATEGIC REGENERATION FRAMEWORK

Introduction

After London won the right to host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games the five host boroughs came together to see how they could build on the legacy promised by the Games.

The East London CVS Network in partnership with the Big Opportunity Steering Group, is leading on an offer to the five host boroughs setting out the strategic importance of involving the third sector as both contributors to community led and community delivered solutions.

The Strategic Regeneration Framework

In November 2009, the Strategic Regeneration Framework (SRF) for the Olympic host boroughs was published. In it the five host boroughs – Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest – have outline an Olympic Legacy vision which goes beyond the Olympic Park and sporting arenas. The SRF describes an area which contains some of the most vibrant and exciting place to live in London, But where entrenched challenges around deprivation remain.

The SRF brings together the regeneration of the physical area of the five host boroughs and the socio-economic regeneration of the communities who live there and provides a strategic, cross-borough blueprint for improvement.

It describes what the five boroughs are going to do to make changes in people's lives as a result of investment in the

Olympics, including opportunities for new jobs, better housing, a changed public realm, and huge economic growth.

The SRF will work by improving the co-ordination and delivery of policies, including:

- Planning and delivering on a more strategic basis
- Building links between traditionally separate programme areas where an integrated approach offers significant gains, such as health and housing
- Getting to grips with opportunities which have so far lacked a clear champion

The SRF will influence all aspects of the regeneration of the host boroughs for the next 20 years and is flexible enough to be responsive to changing times while keeping a firm focus on the overall vision.

About the five host boroughs

Research commissioned in early 2009 by the host boroughs, Government and Mayor of London has revealed gaps between the social outcomes in the five boroughs and the rest of London. In fact, the areas accounts for the greatest cluster of deprivation in England and Wales.

available, the fate of families and communities living in the host boroughs is on average worse than other communities in London. For example:

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- 64.2% of the population are employed in the host boroughs area compared with 70.4% in London. This means, 77,000 fewer people are in employment in the host boroughs.
- The percentage of households who lie in overcrowded conditions is between 18% and 38% in the five host boroughs. The London average is under 7%
- 17% of adults in the host boroughs have no qualifications, compared to 11.6% in London. This gap means 67,000 more people than the London average have no qualifications.
- There is almost an 8% gap in GCSE attainment from the London average
- An extra 15 people per 100,000 of the population die prematurely in the host boroughs than in London overall
- degree-level qualifications
- Approximately 21,000 fewer children living in poverty
- 1,800 more children achieve 5 A*-C GCSEs, including Maths and English
- An additional £155 million pounds is invested in the local public realm
- More affordable family homes are available
- Fewer people with a chronic health condition
- 25,000 more adults will do weekly physical activity
- 44,000 fewer people are affected by reported burglaries
- The planning foundations are laid for public and private investment that will lead to the creation of over 200,000 new jobs

The Vision

The SRF sets out an ambitious legacy vision that is unrivalled anywhere in local government: within 20 years, the communities who host the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games will enjoy the same social and economic chances as their neighbours across London. This is often called the principle of convergence.

Achieving this will mean halting a century of social decline and instituting a pace of change that, in many cases, is two to three times the average London improvement rate.

To secure the SRF vision, by 2015 the host boroughs and their partners need to ensure:

- 120,000 more residents are in jobs
- 99,000 fewer residents have no qualifications at all
- 185,000 more residents have

Next steps

- Collectively responsible for ensuring a better future for residents the five host boroughs need the active support of a wide range of government and third sector organisations
- The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Minister for the Olympics, the Mayor of London and the Mayors and Leaders of the host boroughs are all committed to the SRF and are working to reflect it in their plans and priorities.

The first stage of the SRF sets out the issues facing the area, defines the approach to the physical regeneration of the region, outlines the targets for improvement in key deprivation indicators, and describes the next steps for all partners. It will be followed in March 2010 by a second stage which sets out further legacy benefits, the economic prospects for the sub region, and the detail of the first five-year action plan.

UPDATES

ASSETS TRANSFERS PROGRESS IN ENGLAND, FUNDS OPEN IN WALES

Based on an independent survey on how community asset transfers are progressing, the Asset Transfer Unit (run by the Development trusts Association) estimates that there may be around a thousand transfers of local authority owned assets to third sector organisations in train across England. The survey of a sample of 119 local authorities discovered 350 transfer projects underway, see <http://www.dta.org.uk/whatsnew/pressreleases/AA4thousandtransfers.htm>

GREATER LONDON VOLUNTEERING

The **Experts in volunteering** project is a three-year Big Lottery Funded programme, that began in June 2009. Its aim being to improve the volunteers experience through standardised good volunteer management advice and training. It will be delivered across Greater London working closely with Volunteer Centres from all London boroughs.

The project is managed centrally by Greater London Volunteering (GLV), steered and advised by the London Stakeholders Volunteering Forum (comprising the ChangeUp London Volunteering Subgroup and EVDC (England Volunteering Development Council London).

For further information please contact:
Jen Anderson on Jennifer@glv.org.uk or
020 8536 1937
www.glv.org.uk / www.expertsinvolunteering.org.uk /
<http://www.eventsvolunteering.org.uk>

SKILLS FOR CARE TRAINING

Skills for Care London will be running the following two FREE workshops schedule to take place next year.

- **“Working to improve local opportunities”** - 26th January 2010
The workshop will explore how the 2012 Olympics and its legacy can aid the social care sector.
- **“We are creating a trained and qualified workforce”** - 11th February 2010
The workshop will look at the new Qualifications Credit Framework (QCF)

For further information or to book a place, please contact:
Flora Musoke email: flora.musoke@skillsforcare.org.uk.
W: www.skillsforcare.org.uk/london

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