



# Economic Development Network

WHERE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAPPENS

ISSUE 1 FEBRUARY 2010

## PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP WORKING:

- TRUST
- TRANSPARENCY
- OPEN COMMUNICATION
- SHARING INFORMATION
- RESPECTING EACH OTHER'S STRENGTHS
- EQUAL POSITIONS OF NEGOTIATION

EDN website coming soon!



### What is the Economic Development Network (EDN)?

The EDN works to promote **partnership working** and improved communication between the VCS and statutory sector organisations delivering projects which address worklessness in Hackney. The EDN understands that it is only through partnership working that we can generate real outcomes for Hackney residents. We aim to positively effect the way big and small organisations, funders and statutory bodies work together.

### EDN Co-ordinator's Message:

We at the EDN have been busy taking steps that build on the successful Big and small? Conference 2009 and this newsletter is just the beginning! We are currently working on the 2010 Big and small events programme and a new look website [www.myedn.org](http://www.myedn.org). We are particularly excited about the upcoming **CEN REACH** Conference - see the back page for further information. It is definitely one not to miss! **Crystal Todd**

### EDN Big and Small? Partnership Working Conference

Our conference in November brought together VCS groups, London Borough of Hackney (LBH) and private contractors. Topics raised were:

#### Input to LBH and Contractors:

- VCS expertise needs to feed into policy making
- The VCS must be valued for its expertise and experience in the delivery of successful worklessness initiatives
- VCS consortia bids must be given equal consideration
- Implementation of the Skills for Employment Strategy

#### Input to the VCS:

- More transparency and accountability
- Better planning



#### Going Forward:

- 2010 Big and small? networking event programme
- Working with LBH on the development of a Partnership Charter
- Further Big and small? conferences

## Your Community Empowerment Network Reps are:

**Bisi Ojuri** (Hackney Voluntary Action):  
Deputy chair Team Hackney Board, Ec. Dev.t P.ship Board, Compact

**Avril McIntyre** (Lifeline Projects):  
Ec Dev.t P.ship Board

**Contact Crystal if you have an issue you'd like the CEN Reps to raise with Team Hackney:**  
[crystal@hcvs.org.uk](mailto:crystal@hcvs.org.uk)

## Acronym Buster!

**VCS:** Voluntary and Community Sector

**LVSC:** London Voluntary Service Council

**LBH:** London Borough of Hackney

**GLA:** Greater London Authority

**PIE:** Performance Intelligence and Equalities - Steering Group for Team Hackney

I didn't know what they meant either...



# Hackney Partnership in Practice

Partnership continues to be a major priority for Hackney Mayor Jules Pipe. Through effective partnership working, LBH has delivered initiatives such as the **Sustainable Communities Strategy**. Proving that partnership is more than just a buzzword, the strategy has resulted in tangible positive outcomes such as the reduction of infant mortality. Partnership working has proven to be a crucial tool for those who live and work here.

Following the last PIE meeting it has been agreed that the **Sustainable Environment Group** which has been meeting every quarter for the past last year, will be formally made up to a Thematic Partnership Board, bringing the total up to six. The Sustainable Environment Partnership will be chaired by Cllr Sophie Linden and supported by our Partnership advisor Dominic Luscombe. The key priorities for the Sustainable Environment Partnership are reducing Hackney's carbon footprint by changing the behaviour of residents and staff within organizations towards taking responsibility for their actions, community involvement and green procurement. The inaugural meeting of the new partnership will be 17 March.

All minutes from partnership meetings are on the Team Hackney website: [www.teamhackney.org](http://www.teamhackney.org)

## ELBA: Apprenticeships, Workshops and Advice:

Elba encourages companies to apply their skills to local employment issues. They have the following opportunities for unemployed Hackney residents and community workers:

- **REAL APPRENTICE SCHEME:** 11 weeks of full time work and training in a real job for Hackney residents aged 18-24yrs. Runs 22 Feb to 30 April
- **GRADUATE SKILLS WORKSHOPS:** Topics covered include Communication skills, Handling Workloads and Analytical Skills as well as the chance to meet employers. For undergraduates and graduates. Mid-late Feb.
- **EMPLOYABILITY EVENTS:** One day events providing insights into careers in the Square Mile and Canary Wharf. Gain interview skills, communication skills and more.
- **TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY WORKERS:** Numerous free courses that help community workers interpret, understand and respond to the needs of employers.

To attend any of the above courses contact Elicia Morrison: 07932 068 082 or [elicia.morrison@elba-l.org.uk](mailto:elicia.morrison@elba-l.org.uk)

- **BUSINESS ADVICE** for Community Organisations: Financial, legal, marketing advice and more from business volunteers.
- Contact Emrana Akthar: [Emrana.akthar@elba-l.org.uk](mailto:Emrana.akthar@elba-l.org.uk)



*“Only once there is a clear understanding of a community can we adequately, efficiently and effectively address the needs of that community”*

*Lombe Mwamba*

**SOS Families** works to improve the quality of life of people from the Congolese community and other Francophone African communities in Hackney.

They are currently running the **Hackney Congolese Profile** project to raise awareness and understanding of the community.

[sosfamilies@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sosfamilies@yahoo.co.uk)

## EDN INTERVIEW:

We sat down with network member **SOS Families’** chairperson **Lombe Mwamba** to discuss his frontline experience of delivering worklessness initiatives to Francophone communities in Hackney:

**Q: How can the EDN help tackle worklessness?**

**A: Feedback VCS policy input to big organisations**

When people are making policies it’s important that they understand the different needs of different community groups. SOS Families works to understand the challenges facing the Congolese community. The EDN can learn about these challenges and share this knowledge with bigger organisations such as The Big Lottery or The Refugee Council, which was what the Big and small? EDN conference was all about.

**Q: What are important issues in terms of outreach and engagement?**

**A: Understanding people culturally and historically, building trust**

If people are in a legally vulnerable situation, such as being under immigration control, then speaking to people from large organisations who they’ve never met can be intimidating, they may assume everything is linked to the police or border control. Community groups develop trusting relationships with the people we work with, we share a culture and a history as well as a language.

**Q: What is your expectation of the Olympics with regard to the creation of jobs in Hackney?**

**A: Community groups had hoped to be more involved**

I know that the Olympics will create many jobs, but at the moment I don’t see a strong strategy to involve local communities and community groups. We have not been presented with a way to feed into the process and because we are not involved we can’t feedback information into the communities we work with. We had hoped to be more involved and to be included in decision making and be invited to meetings and training sessions.

LVSC launched the Big Squeeze survey and seeks a **big response** from London’s VCS. The survey aims to track key developments since last year and how anticipated changes in public expenditure will affect our ability to help Londoners through the recession in the coming year. The link to the survey is: <http://www.lvsc.org.uk/Templates/information.asp?NodeId=100050>





## TEAM HACKNEY UPDATE!

Two new partners  
have joined the  
EDP :

*Matthew*

*Thomson, Social  
Enterprise Rep,  
London*

*Community  
Resource Network  
(LCRN) and*

*Richard Abbott,  
Hackney*

*Enterprise  
Network*

*Representative*

## Partnership Working and Worklessness

In Oct 2010, the **Flexible New Deal** will be introduced into Hackney. One of the 5 core principles of the FND is: **' a partnership approach with public, private and third sector organizations working together to maximize innovation, leading to more and better outcomes.'**

### But why is partnership working so important?

Tackling worklessness requires more than creating job opportunities, it also involves **providing education** outside of schools, **addressing hopelessness** and low motivation and recognizing the **skills of VCS groups** to reach and connect with people that state services aren't in touch with.

### EDN Interviewee Lombe Mwamba identified the following issues around worklessness in the Francophone communities he works with:

- Language barrier: English is often a second or third language
- Low aspirations and expectations
- Different culture of work: difficulties learning different customs
- Flow of information: especially re. the labour market and benefits system
- Immigration issues
- Standards of jobs advertised at jobcentres

**You can contact SOS Families on 020 7923 1962/ 07969 817 362 or at [sosfamilies@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sosfamilies@yahoo.co.uk)**

## SERCO: Welfare to Work Bids and Upcoming Workshops

Serco's Welfare to Work team has submitted eight tenders to the DWP to deliver the second phase of the Flexible New Deal. This programme supports long-term unemployed people into sustained jobs. Serco has bid contracts in two London regions– City of London & Olympic Host Boroughs and West London. Preferred Bids are expected to be

announced in April. Serco's FND model brings together a network of the best local welfare to work providers to work in genuine partnership, to support as many long-term unemployed people into sustained and meaningful work as possible. The community and voluntary sector plays an essential part in Serco's network. Serco's FND delivery model for London includes 50

partners from the VCS.

### WORKSHOPS

Serco will shortly facilitate regional 'Preparing For FND' workshops for existing local welfare to work organisations. More information on these will be available on Serco's website:

**[www.serco.com/markets/welfare](http://www.serco.com/markets/welfare)**

## Funding Opportunities!

**Awards for refugees to set up projects that make their communities happier, healthier and safer.**

Name: **UnLtd Millennium Award (Level 1)**  
 Deadline: **End of March 2010**  
 Amount: **£500-£5000 (average award £2000)**

### Requirements:

- Applicants must be 16yrs or over
- Your project must be run by an individual or a small, informal group (not part of an established organisation)
- Applicants must live in England and have proof of refugee status
- Your project must address a social problem and enable you to learn new skills
- Your project must require UnLtd funding in order to succeed

To see if your project is eligible fill out the online questionnaire at: [www.unltd.org.uk](http://www.unltd.org.uk) or contact **Crystal** at [crystal@hcv.org.uk](mailto:crystal@hcv.org.uk) or 020 7923 1962 to discuss your application.



### What is RISE?

The Refugee Initiative for Social Entrepreneurs funds projects run by refugees. Projects set up with RISE funding include a media training project in South London, an advocacy project and the publication of two children's books.

### What is UnLtd?

Unlimited Millennium Awards are funded by the National Lottery. Level 1 awards are for social entrepreneurs (individuals and informal groups) who need funding to get a project started.

## Future Jobs Fund

The EDN invites all members to attend a meeting for Third Sector training and employment providers on **15 February**.

The Future Jobs Fund (FJF) is a challenge fund run by the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP) to create 100,000 jobs for young people 18-24 who have been out of work for a year and 50,000 jobs in unemployment hotspots.

For further information about this event contact **Crystal** :

[Crystal@hcv.org.uk](mailto:Crystal@hcv.org.uk)

Or for further info on FJF see:

<http://research.dwp.gov.uk/campaigns/futurejobsfund/>

## Contact Us

The EDN is all about partnership working so it makes sense that the EDN newsletter wants to hear from YOU (that's not an acronym).

Whether you're from the VCS, a private company or LBH we want to hear your views...

**Are there issues you'd like us to cover?**

**Do you have experiences of partnership working?**

**Want to take part in an EDN interview?**

**Contact [crystal@hcv.org.uk](mailto:crystal@hcv.org.uk) if you'd like to contribute.**

# REACH

helping communities influence services

**Your chance to discuss how community representatives and networks can influence services in the borough**

**Date: Tuesday, 23 March 2010, 10am – 4pm**  
**Place: Morley Hall, London E8 3RH**

REACH is your chance to help create solutions to local issues, learn something new and meet new people. REACH is free! Book your place online at: [www.reachevent.eventbrite.com](http://www.reachevent.eventbrite.com)

**Why not connect with others, share ideas and discuss issues online with others before the event?** The REACH Online network is free to join and is open to all - whether you can attend the event or not. Find out more at [www.reachnetworking.com](http://www.reachnetworking.com)

## Third Sector

### Commissioning:

Come and help shape the Third Sector Commissioning Strategy for Team Hackney Partners!

Susan Gooding, Head of Community Partnerships and Sonia Khan, Head of Commissioning Partnerships are leading the development of the strategy to include national good practice principles and a common commissioning approach to be adopted by all commissioners and Team Hackney partners.

**Wednesday 24 February, 9.30am-1.30pm**

**Venue:** Tomlinson Centre, Queensbridge Road, Hackney E8 3ND

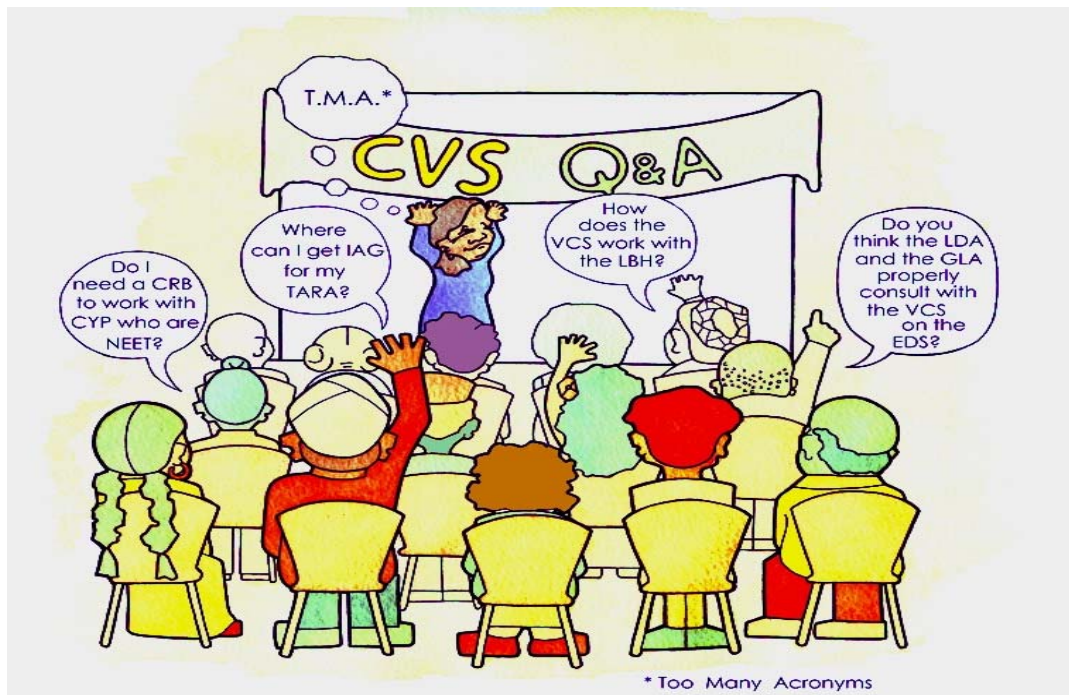
**To book your place email:**

[christoper.enti@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:christoper.enti@hackney.gov.uk)

**No later than Friday 18 February!**

## The Continuing Adventures of Veronica Candice Simmons

Illustrations by Nicky Green [www.nickygreen.org.uk](http://www.nickygreen.org.uk)



The Economic Development Network is a Community Empowerment Network forum for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations to input to Team Hackney on training, enterprise, volunteering and employment issues. Find out more about the CEN, visit [www.hackneycen.org.uk](http://www.hackneycen.org.uk) HCVS is registered under the Charities Act 1960 No: 1069736 and is a registered Company No: 3365292. HCVS is a member of NAVCA – the national body for voluntary sector infrastructure organisations.