



# Annual Report **2013-14**

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*Empowering the Community*



Weavers Community Forum

# BOXPARK



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## Message from the Chairperson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners, funders, staff, volunteers and finally our Management Committee member's for taking the time out for the development of Weavers Community Forum.

A group of concerned individuals came together, identified the need and concerns of the residents of this area and decided to form a constituted organisation to tackle the isolation & barriers that local residents and the young people face.

Weavers Community Forum (WCF) has come a long way since we started our journey in July 2010. We have managed to secure a Community Centre to deliver projects & services for the Community.

We have also organised a dedicated team of volunteers from all parts of the Weavers ward, where most of our activities are held.

I am absolutely sure that our dedicated Executive Council Members, Staff & volunteers will play a positive & vital role to shape & move this organisation forward to the next level in the years to come.

Our priority is to work with some of the most disadvantaged youth through our Youth & Employment project, making a difference to their quality of life. I urge our partners, friends, funders to engage with us so we can work collaboratively and innovatively to help our young people. I am thankful for having an excellent team to support the developments of Weavers Community Forum.

Abdul Malick  
Chairperson



## **Our Mission**

To engage & empower the Youth and Community through excellent services that is creative & accessible.

To eradicate any issues with the local youth and assist in their transition to young adults.

## **Our Values**

Open and accountable, Culturally inclusive, ready to adopt changes, Community Focused.

## **Who we are**

We are an independent Grassroots Community Organisation, led by a board of Trustees / Executive Council Members.

## **What we do**

We offer a wide range of Community services, Health, Educational, and Sporting initiatives tailored to suit the needs of

local Communities. We support people, particularly those living in disadvantaged urban Communities to re-engage with the mainstream society and improve their quality of life.

## **Where we are**

We are based at the Weavers Community Centre, 10 Shacklewell Street, London E2 7EG, off from the famous north part of Brick Lane.



# Projects / Activities

## Be active in the Community Project

Be active in the Community Project has been successfully running since January 2013, activities as part of the project are: Weekly Football Coaching, Badminton games, Carrom board games, Fifa competition's, Youth Club activities, day Trips, Awards Ceremonies, Community Fun days & events. Generic club activities usually take place Tuesdays & Fridays. Around 150 people so far have accessed the service & many have been signposted to various local services. Be active in the Community Project is funded by LBTH.

### Outcomes:

- An increase in confidence and self-esteem
- An increase in access to sports and recreational activities and learning about healthy eating & keeping fit.
- A Reduction in social isolation
- Network with local community organisations and strengthening community cohesion
- An Increase in rates of attendance and participation
- Young people have been signposted to college, training providers or other community organisations
- build community Cohesion



# Employment Training and Advice Project (ETA)

This project was very successful; first round was one funded by Awards For all in 2012 & then again funded by the European Social Fund in 2013/14. The project recruited 13 unemployed participants and was delivered very successfully under the name of (SOLIDITY). Five participants have found jobs through the support of the project coordinator in 2014.

Two accredited courses on Health & Safety & Food hygiene training alongside with other various workshops, personal development sessions, such as help with writing CV, help with writing job applications & interview skills all were delivered to the participant's as part of the this project. Further grants applications have been made to continue to run the project in 2015.

To highlight and recognise the success and achievements made by the participants, we hosted and hosted an awards ceremony to provide certificates for their training and experience.

## Outcomes:

- Some participants progressed to specific courses with key providers
- Five participants Progressed to fulltime employment
- Increased confidence allowing them to access other services
- Some Progressed to a higher level training courses
- Few have started to volunteer for our elders Luncheon Club Project



# Positive Activities for Young people (PAYP)

The PAYP project is a very favourite of the young people, it's delivered in partnership with Tower Hamlets youth service. 16 young people took part in an Accredited football leadership training course in August 2013 and more than 25 young people took part in other regular indoor/outdoor sports & recreational activities, Trips, BBQ etc.

The project has helped young people achieve more as our target group were mainly from Black Asian Minority Ethnic group communities, however the project had a wider impact on the community as young people gained a sense of community empowerment and a responsible outlook towards society as a whole.

## Outcomes:

- Team building exercises teaching young people Leadership skills
- Regular attendance of young people per session
- Learning outputs through accredited and certified courses
- PAYP projects are funded by LBTH Youth Service during term term holidays





# Resilient Adult Health & Wellbeing (Luncheon Club Project)

The Luncheon Club Project takes place twice a week for both male and females over 50's, activities include Lunch & Socializing together, getting advise and support, board games, healthy eating & healthy living workshops, nutritional advise, discussion on Community Cohesion, and health promotion open days. The Luncheon Club Project provides a platform for senior citizens to come out from their homes to interact & socialise among its diverse community members, it also promotes good health & advise on various issues that affect their everyday lives.

## **In the word of a service user;**

*“Luncheon club is a means for me to come out from my house, I consider it to be my second home”.*



# Community Expo / Awards Ceremony

## Objective

The Community Expo had both broad as well as specific aims including unity through diversity by bringing together a diverse community, showcase and promote key service providers, reach out to all the community, celebrate and thank some of the young people benefiting from the educational projects of WCF. It also sought to thank and award various longstanding contributors to the weavers community.

Overall it was to bring the WCF and its activities to the whole community.

## Achievements

The highlight of the event was the awards which promoted the recognition of young and old for their efforts and achievements inspiring future generations to selflessly serve their community especially the residents of Weavers whilst bringing the Weavers Community Forum and its activities to the whole community.

## Output

- 300+ people attended the event at the St Hilda's East Community Centre
- Attendance from most parts of Weavers ward of all ages mainly 18 and up to 70+, both men, women, old and young of diverse ethnic roots including Bangladeshi, white European, Somali, West Indian, North African and others
- A number of organisations intermingled with each other knowing whose who exchanging information and leaflets including on stage announcements
- A very rich audience included British Bangladeshis, Europeans, Somalis, Indigenous white, men and women including those over 60's. A number of local organisation and its heads were directly consulted in nominating locals for the awards
- All most 50-50 male and female participation
- More than 25 local young people were recognised from 10-15 years in age as well as around 10 local adults male and female from the local area
- A 60's + organisation were recognised as well as a number of 50+ elderly individuals for their service and dedication
- The event was covered by Ethnic TV channels of the British Bangladeshi community, as well as some of the newspapers including the councils East End Life

## Conclusion

This was a community event organised by an organisation though new but rooted in the Weavers community. It has developed a number of creative projects to engage and support the young and old of varying backgrounds. It was creative and innovative to take up the idea of a Community Special Awards event thereby bringing together more than 300 + people of varying ages and varying backgrounds including upto 40 young and old being recognised for their efforts. This meant taking part in a number of courses organised by the Weavers Community Forum, especially for people who have dedicated themselves locally for all including maintaining the band stand at Arnold Circus and the Community launderette.

As a first ever event in Weavers and possibly in the locality the “Weavers Community Expo” with its ‘Special Community Awards’ has been a ground breaking and innovative event. It no doubt has inspired and activated the local community young and old to take a direct interest in its betterment. It attracted an array of community members that include residents, local stake holders with varying ethnic roots. It was able to engage local businesses through whose support the actual awards were made possible.

The awards event certainly surprised a number of individuals when they found out about them being nominated and chosen. No doubt the community of Weavers will look forward to WCF’s services and the community awards again and again each year.



# Weavers Community Fun Day 2014

Weavers Community Fun day took place on the 30th of August 2014 in the final week of the School holidays at the Big Pitch, adjacent to our Community Centre on Shacklewell Street. Around 400 male & females including children & young people from all section of the community came together to enjoy and celebrate the afternoon at an open space, diverse but united.



Amongst all participants the Executive Mayor of LBTH & some of his Cabinet members also took part at this event. The Mayor was impressed of the event and has thanked the organisers for putting up a fantastic & fun filled event on a Saturday afternoon. The event was fun filled with rides, bouncy castle; bouncy slides, henna/face painting, tug of war, football tournament, table tennis competition, fuse ball, BBQ with inspiring words, workshops & other competitions.

# Photography Project

12 Young People took part in six weeks long photography project funded by LBTH Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) young people have also taken part at various trips & other indoor sporting games as part of the project.

Young People learnt how to take photographs professionally by using a DSLR Camera, got to know other Young people, stayed out of trouble gained non credited certification & were inspired to learn & research more about this subject.



# Weavers Filming Project

Weavers Filming Project was a successful project led by the young people, a group of 14 young people took part on this project. Young people traveled around to their favourite local places to take pictures & recording of places & events, there were other activities such as trips to a Golf course, Cinema, and Bowling as well as indoor sporting activities on offer.

Young people produced a video recording at the end of their project, learning how to record & edit films. This enabled the young to gain skills and insights of the media, and improved on their social skills.

The Filming project was funded by LBTH youth opportunity fund. (YOF)



## Uniting Youth Conference

This Conference was organised in partnership with other local organisations such as Tower Hamlets Homes, Canary wharf group PLC, MCP, SYA & Poplar Harca, also funded by other local small organisations & businesses.

This event was organised through discussions with other local organisation to bring all disadvantaged young people of Tower Hamlets together to address & minimise Gang Culture, conflict & settling their differences amongst the young people of this borough. It was held at the Ecology Pavilion Mile end.

This event was a very successful event it attracted 300 young people, coming together in one roof from different parts of the borough to unite, work together on common grounds.

Young people were inspired by the event; leaving motivated with aspiration to work towards achieving a goal in life.



# SIA Course

First SIA Course was delivered April 2013 in partnership with (Skills Plus Project) to 10 unemployed adults over two weeks at the Weavers Community Centre. Most participants successfully completed the course & obtained accredited certification to work in the Security Industry.

The second SIA Course was delivered in May 2013 as part of the PAYP Project funded by LBTH youth Service. This was for young people age between 17-19 years old.

Candidates have learnt about their personal safety & Security, understand fire signs, and plan safely evacuation, exercise restraint methods, use tools within the law to stop criminals from escaping, understand the security industry in the larger context, identify additional job opportunities and training to move up the ladder.

The course has encouraged candidates to plan, monitor be more aware of their environment and ensure the safety of all.

The Security course has assisted NEET young people into staying safe away from harm, from falling under the boredom factor, from being dis-engaged, creating local anti-social behaviour and staying away from negative peer groups. The course will improve their motivation, their determination to find jobs in the security industry This week long course is a recognized labour industry qualification and forms part of the portfolio to enter into this field of work.

Candidates have enjoyed the course and achieved a security industry accredited certificate that will allow them to pursue higher levels of training. Candidates can also make a positive contribution by giving back to their friends, their community by sharing their knowledge and provide practical tips to local shops and business to improving their personal safety and security.



# Study Support Club – Forthcoming Project

There is a huge demand for a quality study support Club in this part of the borough therefore Trustees / MC members have decided to start this Project ASAP. Funding options have been identified & are preparing to make funding applications. The project will commence as soon as the fund is available to the organisation.

We have a waiting list on chosen areas by our users whom feel the need to support young people with educational need. A list was collected through our existing project such as Be active in the Community, Youth Project and Summer scheme where we usually have around 40 participant registering to take part in recreational activities.

We spoke to 30 local parents who use our facilities, and have indicated this project is important for local communities who have difficulty when it comes to supporting their children with homework.

We are aiming to bring quality support for Young people as there isn't any quality Homework support club around in this part of the borough.

## Poribortan Project

(Change in the Community Project)

## Forthcoming Project

Poribortan is part of our Employment Training & Advise Project for unemployed Bangladeshi adults; it will address their immediate needs & upgrade their skills to access the job market as well as the mainstream provisions.

- 50 Bangladeshi adults engaging per year (150 over 3 years)
- 30 People Completing ESOL course per year (90 over 3 years)
- 20 People completing ICT course per year (60 over 3 years)
- 10 People supported into further education 30 over 3 years)
- 10 Elderly engaging in Woman Social Club / Luncheon Club (30 over 3 years)



# Mobile Youth Provisions

## (Mobile Youth Clubs) Forthcoming Project

Mobile youth Clubs seek to target estates & localities where there are minimal youth Provisions and where young people do not readily engage in traditional youth clubs or other local mainstream provisions.

On offer will be Football coaching (to be located within the estates or a local Park. Cricket Sessions, Carom board, Table tennis. Bi Monthly excursion/trips, Short workshops, group & One2One support by Youth workers to access training & employment services or other forms of support.

Groups of young people between the age of 11-21 years of age not engaged in other youth provisions or residing in areas where there are very few youth provisions.

Each mobile youth club will be for 12 Month period during the evening.

There will be close work with local providers & stakeholders including youth Clubs Housing association, Tenants Residents Associations to avoid any duplications.

### Issue being address:

- Gang Culture
- Territoriality
- Isolation & marginalisation
- Lack of youth provisions in the particular locality



# Statement of Financial Activities

## For the year ended 31st March 2014

<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>2014 £</b>	<b>2013 £</b>
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
Charitable activities income	-	50,804	50,804	-
Other Income	580	-	580	2,825
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>50,804</b>	<b>51,384</b>	<b>2,825</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
Charitable activities cost	146	40,885	41,031	3,259
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>40,885</b>	<b>41,031</b>	<b>3,259</b>
<b>SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>9,919</b>	<b>10,353</b>	<b>(434)</b>
Funds as at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013	(434)	-	(434)	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AT 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,919</b>	<b>9,919</b>	<b>(434)</b>

# Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge and thank the following organisation & businesses for their financial assistance during the year.





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