

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

England & Wales · Charity number 1154824

Details

Other names	SOCIETY LINKS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07750061
Registered	2013-12-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: 1. TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR PEOPLE IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS. 2. THE RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC IN SUCH WAYS AS MAY BE THOUGHT FIT. 3. TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PREVENTING PEOPLE FROM BECOMING SOCIALLY EXCLUDED, RELIEVING THE NEEDS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE SOCIALLY EXCLUDED AND ASSISTING THEM TO INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLAUSE 'SOCIALLY EXCLUDED' MEANS BEING EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, OR PARTS OF SOCIETY, AS A RESULT OF ONE OF MORE OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS: UNEMPLOYMENT; FINANCIAL HARDSHIP; YOUTH OR OLD AGE; ILL HEALTH (PHYSICAL OR MENTAL); SUBSTANCE ABUSE OR DEPENDENCY INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUGS; DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF SEX, RACE, DISABILITY, ETHNIC ORIGIN, RELIGION, BELIEF, CREED, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER RE-ASSIGNMENT; POOR EDUCATIONAL OR SKILLS ATTAINMENT; RELATIONSHIP AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN; POOR HOUSING (THAT IS HOUSING THAT DOES NOT MEET BASIC HABITABLE STANDARDS; CRIME (EITHER AS A VICTIM OF CRIME OR AS AN OFFENDER REHABILITATING INTO SOCIETY). 4. THE PROMOTION OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY: (A) THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION ON THE GROUNDS OF RACE, GENDER, DISABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR RELIGION; (B) ADVANCING EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS IN EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY; (C) PROMOTING ACTIVITIES TO FOSTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN PEOPLE FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS; (D) CONDUCTING OR COMMISSIONING RESEARCH ON EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES AND PUBLISHING THE RESULTS TO THE PUBLIC; (E) CULTIVATING A SENTIMENT IN FAVOUR OF EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY. 5. TO ADVANCE IN LIFE AND RELIEVE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH: (A) THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES PROVIDED IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIAL WELFARE, DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE; (B) PROVIDING SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES WHICH DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS. 6. SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT AS ARE EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE ACCORDING TO THE LAWS OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES MAY FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: Improve the health and education of residents who reside in Tower Hamlets

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin

Geography

- Tower Hamlets

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£474,210	£463,754	-	-
2024-03-31	£446,067	£430,014	-	-
2023-03-31	£441,220	£445,007	-	-
2022-03-31	£395,141	£283,766	-	-
2021-03-31	£304,866	£269,510	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Sharon Barbour	Chair	2013-06-01
Alex Kind		2015-03-08
James Ford		2021-11-04
Joyce Archbold		2010-08-20
NICOLE QUATROMINI		2019-09-23
Rahima Khanom		2023-09-12

Accounts



SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Company Registration: 7750061

Charity Registration: 1154824

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 – 2025



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Foreword from the Chair

It has been an honour to serve as Chairperson of SocietyLinks over the past year. I am proud to say that the organisation has continued to go from strength to strength, achieving a successful year marked by growth, innovation and resilience.

We have launched new and exciting projects such as 'Community Gardening in the Orchard', welcomed new commencements, and initiated meaningful partnerships with a local women's refuge. Our greatest success has been securing funding for longer-term projects, which is vital in a climate where sustainable funding remains a significant challenge in the charity sector.

This year has also been one of reflection and remembrance. We mourn the passing of our co-founder, Abdul Hoque Habib, whose vision, dedication and tireless commitment laid the foundations of SocietyLinks. His legacy continues to inspire our work and will remain at the heart of everything we do.



Looking ahead, I anticipate another exciting year as we remain steadfast in our mission to foster connections and break down barriers for those facing multiple disadvantages. We are committed to working in partnership with other sectors, securing further long-term funding and ensuring that the wide range of services we deliver are not only of the highest standard but also responsive to the needs of those who participate in them.

Finally, I extend my deepest gratitude to our staff, volunteers, and partners. It is their passion, dedication, and hard work that make SocietyLinks what it is today. Together we will continue to honour our past, embrace the present, and build a stronger future for our community.

Sharon Barbour

Chairperson, SocietyLinks

Project Manager's report

The last year has been another busy and productive one, with a sustained focus on stabilising our income to secure the future of our projects and staffing contracts.

I am pleased to report that we have not only maintained three multi-year contracts with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) and a five-year grant with City Bridge Trust, but we have also secured **multi-year funding from the National Lottery**, further strengthening our financial position and enabling us to plan confidently for the future.

A significant milestone has been our achievement of the **Trusted Charities Accreditation**, a recognition of the quality, governance and impact of our work. This accreditation reflects our commitment to high standards and provides assurance to funders, partners and the communities we serve.



This year also saw James Ford, a valued volunteer and trustee of SocietyLinks, win the LBTH Volunteer of the Year Award. We are very proud to have Jim's support and very grateful for all his hard work and efforts.

Our pink building has also had a face-lift; it is now a fresh cream colour to match the surrounding buildings, thanks to Peabody.

We have also continued to **develop new partnerships and strengthen existing ones**, including collaborations with local schools, community organisations and specialist services. These partnerships allowed us to extend our reach, respond to emerging needs, and deliver joined-up support for those facing multiple disadvantages.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on pursuing fundraising for existing services while identifying new areas of need within the community. By combining sustainable funding, strong partnerships, and accredited quality standards, we are well placed to continue delivering impactful programmes that make a real difference.

Joyce Archbold

Managing Director, SocietyLinks

About SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a vibrant community-based charity rooted in the Whitechapel Peabody Estate. Established in 2010 by passionate founders committed to supporting disadvantaged local residents, the organisation began with tailored youth services and English classes for beginners, delivered entirely by dedicated volunteers. These early efforts laid a strong foundation within the community and enabled SocietyLinks to secure funding to expand its services.

Today, SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a trusted pillar of the local community, delivering a wide range of projects designed to empower residents, build confidence, and improve wellbeing. Our mission is to create opportunities and provide practical support leading to tangible, positive change for individuals and families. We work in partnership with other organisations to maximise impact, delivering services across Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.

Our vision is to remain a sustainable, responsive presence within the community, continuously developing innovative projects that reflect the changing needs of local people. By engaging residents and connecting them to the wealth of opportunities around them, we aim to ensure that everyone feels included, supported, and able to thrive.



Our core values

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets actively challenges discrimination and welcomes residents from all sections of the community regardless of their race, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, and political and cultural beliefs.

The core values of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets are as follows:

1. We value the residents of Tower Hamlets as an ethnically diverse community with rich enhanced experiences and high human potential.
2. We aim to support residents to:
 - a) support one another to live more fulfilling lives by securing better futures
 - b) live healthy lives in a safe and comfortable environment
 - c) participate in the life of the community
 - d) take part in education, training, and recreation opportunities
 - e) secure decent housing, employment, and an adequate income.
3. We endeavour to:
 - a) be accountable and responsive to residents
 - b) be flexible and innovative in the delivery of quality services
 - c) work in partnership with other agencies whenever possible and appropriate
 - d) oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender, age, sexuality and disability.



Legal status

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. The Management Board constitutes six directors, who are also trustees, with an appointed chairperson, secretary and treasurer. A list of all the directors can be found at the end of this report.

Constitution

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' constitution sets out the following objectives:

1. To advance education and training for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.
2. To reduce unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit.
3. To promote inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.
4. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by, for example:
 - a) eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion
 - b) advancing education and raising awareness of equality and diversity
 - c) promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds
 - d) conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public
 - e) cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.
5. To advance in life and relieve the needs of young people through the provision of:
 - a) recreational and leisure activities provided in the interest of welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life
 - b) support and activities to develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
6. Such other charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales, as the trustees may from time to time determine.

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets in 2024-2025

This year, SocietyLinks introduced several new services that reflect our ongoing commitment to community support and inclusion. We launched our Monday Integrated SEND Group, funded by LBTH, offering tailored activities for children with and without special educational needs and disabilities. Alongside this, we opened our Toy Library, giving families access to high-quality play resources that support learning, creativity, and connection.

We worked with a considerable number of partners over the year, including University College London (UCL) on the 'Visible Co-Space Study' and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, which set up a 'winter warmer' which constituted of a collection box for employees to donate warm clothing items for distribution among local residents.



These new strands have been well received by our community and we remain committed to shaping our evolving programme offer. We anticipate building on this momentum in the coming year.

SocietyLinks' Summer Programme was very busy with projects running simultaneously from two different sites. We also continued to run Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes across holiday periods, which continued to be extremely popular.

A year in figures

What SocietyLinks achieved between April 2024 and March 2025:

- **1,841** residents used SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' services.
- **746** residents attended a SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' community event.
- **625** children and young people aged 0-19 years engaged with SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets.
- **48** adults and young people took part in accredited training, in areas such as first aid, food safety, health and safety, customer service and ASDAN awards.
- **45** residents received employment support (of whom 42% gained a job).
- **51** volunteers supported SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, including the trustees, young people gaining work experience, and residents of all ages supporting at one-off events and regular sessions.
- **£461,954** of funding was secured by SocietyLinks to continue delivering projects and services.



Outcomes at a glance: 2024-2025

- There is a remarkable increased sense of cohesion within the community, with positive relationships among residents and a stronger sense of belonging to the locality.
- Residents have accessed targeted online employment support resulting in tangible progress towards sustainable employment.
- Residents have accessed pre-ESOL support resulting in increased literacy, confidence and independence.
- Vulnerable local residents and families have accessed free food packs.
- Households without access to digital devices have received devices to support educational attainment, progress and inclusiveness.
- Young people have engaged in online and face-to-face youth club sessions with access to positive, constructive activities, educational workshops, sports and trips.
- Older people have attended weekly sessions at the centre where staff have been able to support them with issues.
- Women have attended digital inclusion sessions and have gained skills to support them and their families overcome digital barriers.
- Girls and young women have gained confidence and new skills through workshops and activities.
- Local families with under five's have accessed stay and play sessions receiving support and guidance on early development.
- Young people have gained certified qualifications through online training courses, increasing their employability and confidence.
- Young people have completed work experience and volunteering through the Summer Project, gaining confidence, skills and knowledge.
- Children and young people have accessed online support with their school work and exam preparation, resulting in higher attainment in public exams.



Financial statement

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets ended the 2024/25 financial year in a stable financial position with a stronger reserve position, as demonstrated by our annual accounts.

We have continued our pro-active fundraising strategy. Through our strong community connections and responsive planning, we accessed funding for projects to meet the changing needs of the community. The year-on-year in our income continued to increase despite the funding difficulties faced by the entire charity sector.

We have continued to grow the size of our reserves in line with our increasing operating costs – due to running more projects. Our reserves remain sufficient to maintain existing services for a minimum of six months in case of a shortfall or delay in income from grants.

Longer-term funding

We have multi-year funding in place for most of our bigger projects, having successfully applied for long-term grants to financially secure our existing large projects and to commence more large projects, which has led us to provide new and existing services to new communities further away from our centre. We have continued to always recognize that long-term funding is key to giving our service users and skilled staff confidence in service continuity. This has enabled us to build trust and long-term relationships with new and existing users of our services.

The charity funding environment continues to be under intense pressure as the lasting impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic constrain public and private funding for the charity sector. Similarly, the cost-of-living crisis is impacting SocietyLinks; it is restricting funding availability, while causing the needs of service users to grow rapidly. We already have funding in place for most of our projects in the medium term and we are confident we can access further funding to secure the longer-term provision of our services.

Forecast

In 2025-2026, funding will remain a priority and a challenge for SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets. We are confident that given our successful performance across all our projects we will be able to renew funding and start new programmes.

We aim to further consolidate our position while continuing our expansion into other community centres and service areas through taking on larger-scale and longer-term projects. Our financial aim for 2025-2026 is to secure larger, multi-year grants of between £80,000 and £100,000 across three-year funding periods to finance our long-term projects and to give the organisation longer-term stability and consistent growth.

Community services

Job Club

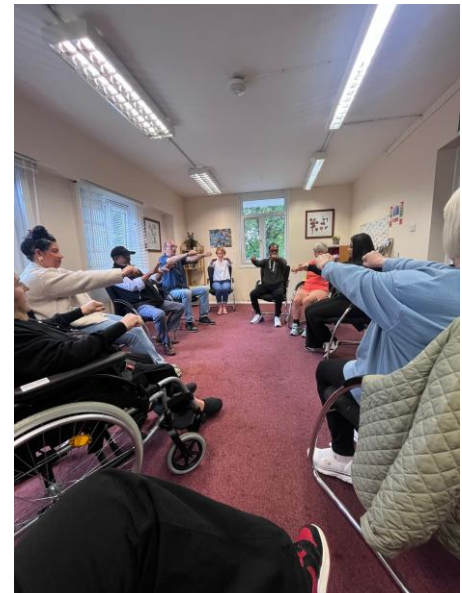
The Job Club was an ongoing, core service with a steady flow of new attendees. We were able to provide support with writing CVs and personal statements, interview practice, sending people to job fairs, and providing volunteering opportunities for those who were looking for experience. A considerable number of participants had successful outcomes with job applications and have secured employment in various roles in schools, nurseries and other professions. We have worked with partners such as ELBA and Ingeus to refer people to other opportunities such as apprenticeship programmes and training opportunities.

Digital Divide

We continued to equip the older generation within our Older People's Club with the skills and confidence needed to navigate technology such as smart phones and laptops. Our efforts have provided valuable insight into using devices effectively, enabling participants to integrate technology into their daily lives and overcome their lack of confidence with technology. We have continued to support the group to feel comfortable using the internet for daily tasks. With our guidance, they have grasped a basic understanding of how to use applications and become proficient with navigating online websites and services to enhance their day-to-day activities. These efforts aim to empower individuals to embrace technology, improving their independence and quality of life. We have provided tailored support to meet the needs of individual residents, such as learning how to video call or using phone applications to play traditional games online safely, such as chess.

Over 50s Group

Our Over 50s Group, funded by LBTH Mayor's Grants, remained a popular and vital service for the local community. The programme offered residents digital support, access to gardening activities in the Swedenborg Orchard, armchair exercise sessions and other leisure activities. The attendees have enjoyed art and craft activities and a game of bingo, as well as conversing and simply enjoying each other's company. They attended events as a group and were keen to maintain the ongoing sessions. The sessions attracted a lot of volunteers: local residents and young children like to pop-by and say hello and play games with the older residents.



City of London Mosaic Project

Over the summer we were funded by City of London to tackle issues relating to antisocial behaviour and unrest among the residents living on the Golden Lane Estate. Conflict was arising between different generational groups, leading to a rise in complaints and a lost sense of ownership and belonging among the youth. Our programme offered six weeks of consultation events and mosaic making workshops, open to everyone in the community. The drop-in sessions were held outdoors in the communal estate space to avoid any barriers of access.

The project was very well received by the community and the result was two large mosaics, made with contributions from people of all ages from the community. Attendees sat together and conversed with each other; everyone helped each other to finish off larger pieces of work or finding the right pieces to fit. Many participants reported that they had made new friends and had opportunities to meet other people and neighbours to whom they had never said hello before.

The City of London agreed to display the mosaics within the Golden Lane Estate in public areas and have reported a huge drop in complaints from residents.

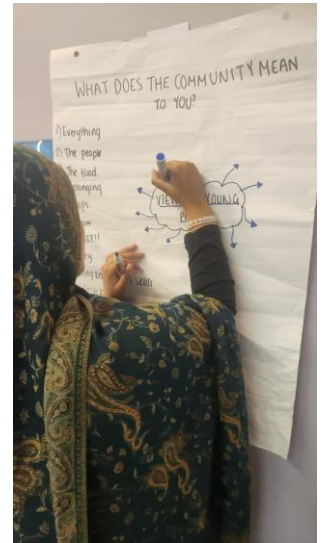


Fisher Foods

Fisher Foods continued to run as a vital foodbank service supported by the LBTH foodbank service and The Felix Project. Although deliveries varied each week, the support was much appreciated by families, especially those with elderly members and young children.

The service was run by a group of our committed volunteers who received the deliveries, sorted and arranged the supplies, and distributed food parcels to the local residents.

During the holidays we accepted food boxes from the Mayor of London's Take and Make/Create and Make/Heat and Eat scheme. The boxes came with recipes and ingredients to cook a healthy meal for a family of four to five or a ready-to-eat hot meal. The boxes also usually contained fresh fruit and vegetables. We distributed approximately 90 to 120 of these boxes each school holiday.



Insanity Fitness

Insanity Fitness on a Tuesday evening continued to be very popular with frequent requests for additional sessions. The session was for men aged over 18 years and aimed to increase their general fitness and strength through resistance training exercises. The session was run by a qualified instructor who is passionate about supporting people to make better choices in life and improve their wellbeing.

Christmas 2024

Christmas was celebrated with a community party at Stockholm House with Santa's grotto and special guest Snow White. Gifts for the local children were kindly donated by ELBA and UBS as part of the annual toy appeal. Families enjoyed popcorn and hot dogs and took part in festive games and competitions. We had separate events at Raines House for our older people's and under 5s group, which were very successful and welcomed special visitors including the British Transport Police.



KitchenLinks

This year saw the end of the KitchenLinks programme, which offered online cooking classes for families via Instagram Live, as well as budgeting sessions and support with pre-ESOL and numeracy.

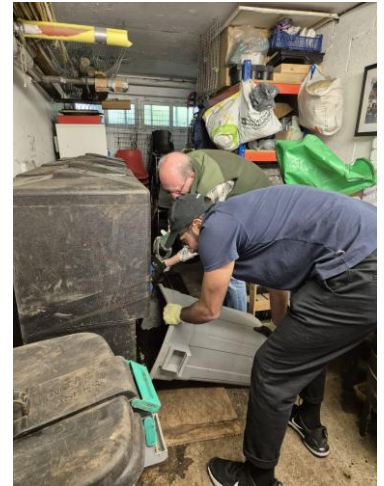
We are looking for more funding to continue the sessions or offer a similar service because it was in such high demand.

Gardening

Our community garden programme truly took off this year. Residents have begun growing their own fruit and vegetables in our newly refurbished garden boxes, bringing fresh produce and a renewed sense of ownership to the space. Volunteers from AXA joined us to cut back and tidy the overgrown areas, ensuring the garden remained an accessible, welcoming environment for all. The volunteers' support was invaluable in supporting us to maintain a vibrant space that encourages sustainable living and community connection.

Our 'Eat Not, Waste Not' project at Swedenborg Square Orchard quickly became a popular addition to our offer. Focused on reducing food waste and its impact on the local environment, the project promoted practical, community-led solutions. Hot bins were used to compost food waste, while waste was mulched to support sustainability.

Local residents have actively volunteered their time, contributing to the maintenance of the space and sharing knowledge. We have delivered a series of workshops and sessions in the orchard, supporting others to understand how small changes in waste management can make a meaningful difference.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year, SocietyLinks proudly hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning, collectively raising £143.52 to support people living with cancer. The event was part of a nationwide initiative by Macmillan Cancer Support, encouraging communities to come together over coffee and cake to fund vital services. Our coffee morning brought staff, volunteers, and residents together in a warm, welcoming space to share conversation, enjoy refreshments, raise awareness, and contribute to a meaningful cause.



Training hub

Pre-ESOL/ESOL

Our pre-ESOL sessions remained in high demand. Due to their success we continued to run these sessions this year after securing additional funding. We continued to have a long waiting list and two cohorts running consecutively. The sessions have had amazing outcomes including progression onto entry-level ESOL and confidence in speaking, enabling independence, communication, and the gaining of first literacy skills for a considerable number of individuals.

ELLATT continued to facilitate ESOL Entry-Level 2 classes for our service users, which enabled many to move onto further education and training courses at college and other adult education settings.

'I enjoy this class because I talk with everyone and it makes me learn more to talk better English.' R. Ahmed

Childcare Level 2

External training providers delivered two cohorts of Childcare Level 2 courses over the course of the year, which resulted in 25 individuals gaining qualifications, enabling them to further develop their career and progress their employment prospects.



Staff training and development

Staff development remained a key focus through the year. We offered Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work training for staff and volunteers across the year, ensuring our teams are fully compliant and equipped in the case of an emergency.

We welcomed a new apprentice – a Level 6 Youth Work Apprentice – who actively contributed to our programmes while gaining valuable experience. Our Business Management Apprentice was nearing completion of her Level 5 qualification, having made significant progress over the past year.

All staff remained committed to their statutory training, including safeguarding refreshers, first aid, equality and diversity, and health and safety. This ongoing investment in professional development supports us to maintain high standards of care, safety, and inclusivity across all areas of our work.

Women's services

Women's Group: Stay Smart, Stay Safe

Our women's group continued to thrive every Thursday, supported by ongoing funding from LBTH through the Mayor's Community Grants Project. The sessions offered a welcoming and empowering space for women of all backgrounds to come together, share experiences, and learn from one another.

A key feature of the programme was the regular involvement of guest speakers, including the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who lead workshops and discussions on safety-related issues affecting the community. These sessions gave women the opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions, and explore topics that were causing anxiety or confusion. The SNT played a vital role in dispelling rumours and misconceptions by sharing facts, case studies and practical advice.



Over time, attendees have built strong, supportive networks that span faiths, cultures and generations. Each session included a creative activity, such as canvas painting, embroidery, weaving, or textile design, paired with an informative workshop. Topics ranged from home safety and domestic violence, to women's heart health, menopause awareness, cervical and breast cancer, and the realities of motherhood, parenting, and caring responsibilities. We also introduced workshops on health and energy saving, supporting women make informed choices for their households and wellbeing. They supported two local women who put forward projects for the Communities Keeping Well programme with presentations and voting.



Our most popular workshops have been our menopause and breast cancer awareness and Q&A sessions led by Dr Jamila, a local GP with strong community connections. Our service users were able to ask questions openly and clear any misconceptions about their bodies and health.

'The workshop was brilliant, being able to actually understand the symptoms of menopause and the help that is out there for women. I always thought it only happened to older women; I know now it can start a lot earlier!' M. Yasmin

Sewing

Our sewing sessions have flourished this year, becoming a vibrant hub of creativity and peer support. Each week, new participants joined the group, contributing to a growing community of women sharing skills, ideas and encouragement. Using scraps of fabric and reused textiles, attendees have created their own items, from upcycled and torn clothing to new stunning fashion pieces.

Beyond the creative output, the sessions offered a therapeutic space where women felt safe to talk openly, learn from one another, and build lasting connections. The project promoted sustainability, wellbeing, and empowerment through hands-on making and mutual support.

'I love coming sewing every week. It's always positive to see everyone and we always make something crazy each week. I can't really sew much but I love watching everyone and learning. You leave the session smiling each week.'

T. Begum



Girls' Group

Girls' Group has gone from strength to strength this year, with more girls joining and making great progress. Each week, the sessions mixed creative activities with workshops that spark discussion on topics the girls are passionate about.

The creative side was all about trying new things and having fun. With guidance from the youth team, the girls have learned skills like crocheting bags, painting on glass and silk, making desserts, modelling clay, and even creating their own stationery. These hands-on activities not only gave them the chance to explore their creativity, but also helped them connect with their contemporaries building friendships, teamwork, and a real sense of community.

The workshops focused on issues like body positivity, mental health, bullying, puberty, and personal safety. They provided a safe space where the girls could talk openly, share experiences, and get support and advice without fear of judgement. The group welcomes girls aged eight to 16, with up to 30 attending each week. It has been running successfully for over six years, proving to be a vital part of the community and a place where young people feel heard, supported and inspired.



International Women's Day

This year International Women's Day focused on empowering women through historical role models. We had guest speakers from SNT and Women's Network who spoke about the support and services available. The women shared food and made their own hand lotions. It was a lovely occasion celebrating our strong women and giving them the recognition that they deserve.

Youth services

Youth Club

This year's youth club delivered weekly sessions packed with engaging activities including pool, PlayStation 5, art and craft, science experiments, and themed workshops. With consistently high attendance, the club has proven to be a vital service for local young people, offering a safe and welcoming space in which to relax, connect with peers, and access support from qualified youth workers.



Workshops were tailored to address issues relevant to 10-16 year olds, and referrals were made to external organisations where appropriate. The sessions provided opportunities for young people to engage independently with friends, aiming to reduce isolation or anti-social behaviour out of school hours.



A key highlight this year was the group's visit to University College London to take part in the Visible CoSpace study initiative. Young people explored the university setting, interacted with researchers, and contributed to discussions around youth mental health. For many of the group, it was their first experience of a university campus, and the visit left them feeling inspired and proud to have taken part in the experience.



City Of London Youth Service

Our partnership with the City of London continued to deliver high-quality play and youth services. This year's offer included one mixed session at Golden Lane Community Centre, a mixed session at Portsoken Community Centre, and a dedicated girls' group also based at Portsoken Community Centre.

The girls' group remained popular. In response to participant feedback, we ran a six-week Bake Off-style course where young people explored baking techniques, teamwork, and creative presentation. Activity themes reflected the interests and needs of our participants, covering substance misuse, body confidence, social media, Black History Month, environmental awareness, and current affairs.

We also delivered HAF programmes during the school holidays and hosted seasonal events including Christmas parties, summer fun days, and informative consultation events for the residents of the City of London.



Taekwondo

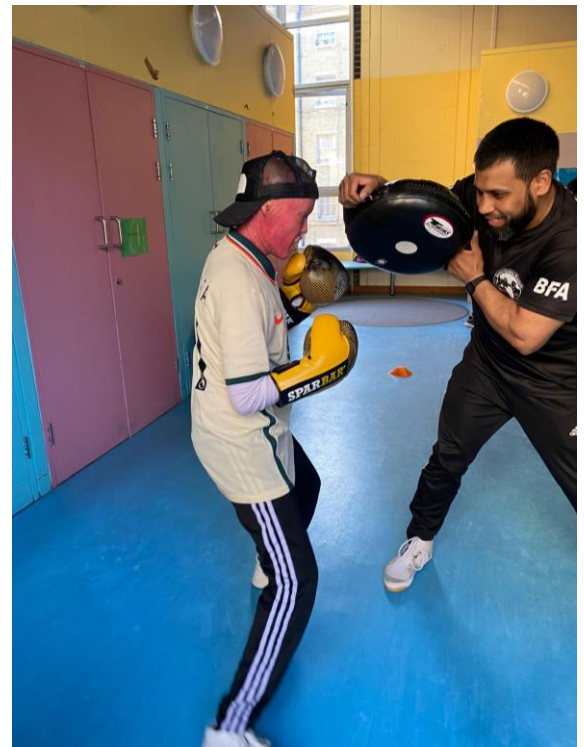
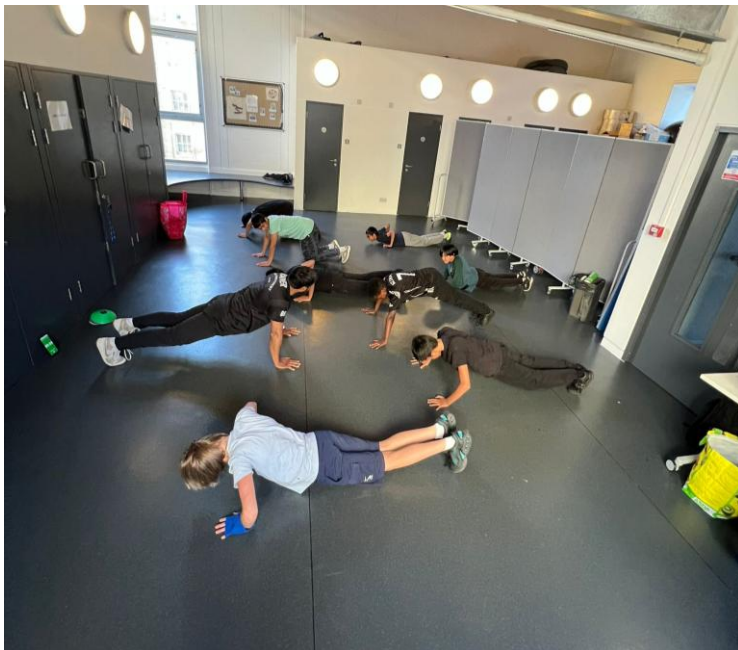
Our Taekwondo sessions, led by Master Shujahat Fiaz and Master Stephen Zheng, continued to support young people's physical and personal development. Participants progressed through formal gradings, with several achieving internationally recognised black belts. The programme welcomed new students, including young women and SEND learners, while older participants took on mentoring roles to build leadership and peer support skills. Sessions were supported by youth workers, ensuring inclusive and holistic support throughout the year.

SocietyLinks Taekwondo remains a vital strand of our youth provision, offering not only technical skill development but a pathway to confidence, community engagement, and long-term personal growth.



Boxing and self-defence

We continued to offer non-contact mixed boxing classes every Wednesday evening, led by a qualified tutor and funded by the Hargreaves Foundation. The sessions focused on technique, fitness, and discipline in a safe and inclusive environment, without sparring or physical contact. Participants of all ages and backgrounds benefit from improved physical health, confidence, and mental wellbeing, while enjoying the practical and motivational aspects of group training.



Saturday Sports

Saturday mornings in the park became a lively hub for children aged eight to 12 through our Saturday Sports programme. Led by experienced youth workers, participants engaged in football, cricket, basketball, and a variety of team games that promoted physical fitness, coordination, and collaboration.

The sessions offered a consistent space for children to learn, practise and refine their physical skills, while building friendships and confidence in a safe, supportive environment. The programme was a valuable part of our weekend offer, encouraging healthy habits and active play.



Study Support

Our Study Support programme provides structured academic support for children and young people from eight to 13 years.

Weekly sessions led by two qualified youth workers offered a calm, focused environment where children could complete homework or engage with tailored worksheets and tasks with the support and guidance of qualified tutors, teachers or youth workers. These sessions reinforced learning skills and helped build confidence in young people, particularly those needing extra support outside school.

For 14–16 year olds, we delivered targeted GCSE maths preparation through small-group sessions led by a specialist tutor. These sessions focused on key topics and exam techniques, supporting learners identified as struggling or at risk of under-achievement.



Stay and Play

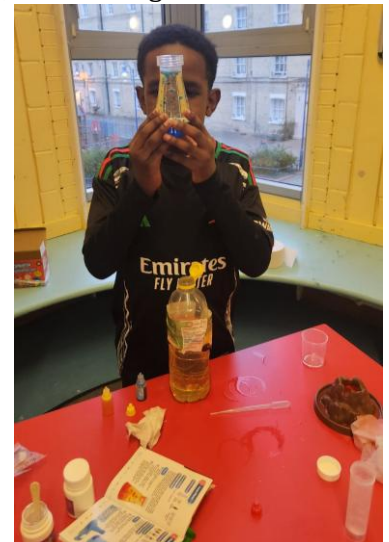
Building on the success of last year's stay-and-play sessions, we continued to offer weekly activities for families with children under five. This year we also launched our new toy library service. The sessions have become a valued part of our early years provision, offering a safe, welcoming space for children to play and explore while parents connect, share experiences, and access informal support.

Led by our experienced play worker, this year's sessions introduced new sensory play activities, seasonal crafts, and outdoor exploration. Highlights included nature walks, messy play sessions, teddy bear picnics, and storytelling sessions. Parents have consistently praised the sessions for their inclusive atmosphere, the quality of developmental resources, and the positive impact on their children's confidence and skills.

The programme continued to encourage and support early learning through play; supporting families to build routine, resilience, and community connection.

British Science Week

Young people took part in a range of hands-on science experiments, sparking curiosity and excitement throughout the sessions. Activities included making lava lamps and mini volcanoes – both hugely popular and visually engaging. Participants enjoyed exploring the fun side of science, applying their knowledge, asking questions, and sharing ideas as they worked through each experiment. The sessions encouraged creativity, teamwork, and a deeper interest in scientific understanding.



Easter HAF Project 2024

During the Easter holidays (April 2024), we delivered our HAF programme in the local park, offering a mix of fun, structured activities and nutritious meals. Children took part in football, table tennis, cricket, art and craft activities, and writing competitions, under the supervision of qualified youth workers. The open-air setting promoted physical activity and wellbeing, while the provision of free meals and supervised play offered vital support to vulnerable families during the school holidays.



Summer HAF Project 2024 and London Docks Summer Eco-Arts Programme

We successfully delivered our Summer HAF Club 2024 across 16 days from Swedenborg Gardens Park. The programme engaged more than 200 children and young people from across the borough, offering a safe, inclusive, and enriching environment that combined healthy meals, creative workshops, physical activities, and wellbeing support.

Both the outdoor park sessions and the indoor eco-themed programme were hugely successful. Participants of our eco project produced a vibrant environmental display, demonstrating their learning and creativity. We celebrated the end of the summer with two large community BBQs, bringing families together in a relaxed and festive atmosphere.



Throughout the programme, we supported eight young people through our Young Volunteers Scheme, enabling them to gain hands-on experience across different areas of our organisation.

We welcomed visits from SNT, police horses, and the British Transport Police, who contributed to the safety of our sessions. We also took participants on several trips this summer, including to Go Ape, Top Golf and other local attractions.



RainbowLinks

RainbowLinks introduced monthly webinars this year, featuring expert speakers to support parents and carers of young people with SEND. Alongside this, we continued to offer integrated services for young people with and without SEND, ensuring all sessions were equipped to welcome those with additional needs.

We launched a designated session focused on homework support and youth activities for our SEND cohort, providing tailored guidance in a safe and inclusive environment.



Come & Play Co-Pilot Project

LBTH commissioned us to deliver a play engagement pilot programme from a local school to encourage engaging in physical play after school hours. The programme was well received by children and their families because they enjoyed playing together and having a space available to them where they felt comfortable and safe to relax and play.



Staff, Management Committee and volunteers 2024/25

Staff

Managing Director: Joyce Archbold
Deputy Manager: Rahima Khanom
Office Manager: Mahira Yasmin
Fundraiser/ Admin: Nusrat Begum
Youth Work Manager: Natasha Freya
Youth Work Lead: Joynul Ahmed
Youth Work Lead: Syed Ahmed
Early Years Lead Practitioner: Pipeta O'Brian
Project Coordinator: Hasina Begum
Youth Worker: Betina Wembo
Youth Worker: Aneesah Rashid
Youth Worker: Ambia Begum
Youth Worker: Madihah Khan
Youth Worker: Yasir Hussain Hyder
Youth Worker: Antoine Louis
Youth Worker: Nahid Ahmed
Project Worker: Bulirun Nessa
Project Worker: Nasima Aktar
Project Worker: Rita Rahman
Project Worker: Ruksana Begum
Project Worker: Sayra Khanom
Project Worker: Shozwana Khanom
Project Worker: Shana Khatun
Project Worker: Tara- Maria Rathour
Project Worker: Genia Leontowitsch
Project Worker: Habiba Khatun
Sports Coach: Sayek Khan
Sports Coach: Shujuhat Fiaz
Sports Coach: Ashraf Ali
Tutor: Sultana Begum
Tutor: Samad Hussain
Tutor: Heather Smith

Board of Trustees

Chair: Sharon Barbour
Treasurer: Alex Kind
Secretary: James Ford
Trustee: Rahima Khanom
Trustee: Nicole Quotromini
Director: Joyce Archbold

Volunteers

Ian Roberts
Anisa Yasmin
Lamha Mohd
Tamim Mohd
James Ford
Asma Begum
Ujjwala Dasgupta
Shajeda Aktar
Jaheda Aktar
Ripa Aktar
Shanaz Begum
Fahmida Akthar
Samid Ahmed
Zara Salam
Noushin Chaklader
Jannat Ahmed
Afrin Chaklader
Sara Ahmed
Saima Khanom
Foyzur Rahman
Abdullah Ahmed
Shah Hussain
Khalida Khatun
Shima Akter
Emran Ali
Tarikur

Accountant

Earl and Grey Accountants: Razaul Kaabir/ Nozmul Hussain

Partners and funders

Partners

Bromley by Bow Centre
E1 Gardeners
East End Homes
ELBA
Ingeus
Linkage Plus
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Look Ahead
NatWest Bank
Peabody Housing Association
Pollyanna Theatre School
Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Safer Neighbourhoods Teams
Savage Words
Super Youth Hub
Team DJB Taekwondo
The Felix Project
Tower Hamlets Talking Therapies
Twin Group E-Training
University College London

Funders

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
City of London
City Bridge Trust
Global Charities
Peabody
Tower Hill Trust
Wakefield Trust
Just Fact – WEN
East End Community Foundation
Hargreaves Foundation
William Wates Memorial Trust
Trust for London
British Science Association
Garfield and Weston Foundation
National Lottery TNL Fund
Sports England Movement Fund
Cory Group
Worshipful Company of Gardeners
Tesco Stronger Starts
Gosling Foundation

Reg No. 07750061
Charity Reg No: 1154824

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Financial statements for the year ended
31 March 2025

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SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Name of Organisation: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Correspondence Address: The Whitechapel Centre
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX

Tel: 020 7702 0901

Chairperson: Sharon Barbour

Treasurer: Alex Kind

Trustees: James Ford
Nicole Quotromini
Joyce Archbold
Rahima Khanom

Independent Examiner: Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Banker: Natwest Plc
Plaistow Branch
386 Barking Road
London
E13 8JB

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees/Management Committee for the year ended 31st March 2025

The financial statements laid out in this report on page 3 to 5 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in March, 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and that you consider the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, this act does not apply. It is our responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 43(3) (e) of the 1993 Act. Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and;

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with general direction given by the Charity's Commissioner. The examination includes:

- A review of the accounting records kept by the Charity.
- A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- It includes consideration of any unusual items if disclosures in the accounts.

Finally, making explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters relating to the accounts. The examination also includes examination of any such matters of evidence relevant to the account of disclosures in the financial statements. It includes assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed. The procedures undertaken

do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

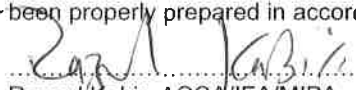
- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which in our opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial statement as prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31st March 2025 and that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.


Razaul Kabir ACCA/IFA/MIPA

Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Date: 11th October 2025

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Income and Expense

For the Period Ended 31 March 2025

	Restricted	Unrestricted
Income	£	£
City of London	114,696	
City Bridge Foundation	41,593	
Action Fund	5,000	
LBTH - Mayors Community Grant	129,600	
British Science Association	4,417	
Cory Community fund	3,000	
East End Community Foundation (EECF)	9,000	
Sports England - Movement Fund	14,496	
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Just Fact	10,900	
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Peabody	5,000	
Global Charities	30,000	
Goslin Foundation	5,000	
Merchant Taylors	3,000	
National Lottery Awards All	19,920	
Sheldon Trust	5,000	
Womens Environment Network	1,000	
Tower Network PCN	2,080	
Wakefield	3,000	
Worshipful Company of Gardens	2,500	
People's Health Trust	3,944	
Trust For London	18,750	
Tower Hill Trust	3,600	
East London Advance		240
E training - Rent		6,698
Donations		4,953
Hall hire		365
Total Income	461,954	12,256
		474,210

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

		31.03.25		31.03.24
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Previous year
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grants:				
All Grants	-	461,954	461,954	440,799
Contracts	-		-	-
JRS (Furlough)	-	-	-	-
		461,954	461,954	440,799
Other income:				
Rental income	7,303		-	365
Donations	4,953			4,903
Total incoming resources	12,256	461,954	474,210	446,067
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Operating costs:				
Admin, Finance & Proj Mang		70,363		60,091
Project Staff		252,016		256,479
				-
Equipment, Trips & Project Costs		102,739		70,687
Rent		24,557		24,557
<u>Premises Cost</u>				
Cleaning		-		-
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>				
Subscriptions		-		
Training		3,922	1,154	
Fund Raising & Publicity		-	4,900	
Insurance		891	922	
Tel & Internet		324	360	
Pension		5,684	5,555	
		10,820		12,891
<u>Financial Expenses</u>				
Bank Charges	348			329
Governance costs				
Accountancy	1,260			1,260
Legal & Other Professional	1,650			3,720
Total resources expended	3,258	460,495	433,754	430,014
Net income	8,997	1,458	10,456	16,052

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Balance Sheet At 31 March 2025

			31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank	138,431	57,463	195,894	175,897
Debtors		52,455	52,455	62,455
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year		(16,939)	(16,939)	(17,398)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
NET ASSETS	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			138,431	132,103
Restricted funds			92,979	88,851
TOTAL FUNDS			231,410	220,954

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Trustees Report

Registered Name & Address: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, 80 John Fisher Street, London, E1 8JX

Registered Charity Number: 1154824

Registered Company Number: 7750061

Public Benefits Statement

Introduction

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets as a registered charity is committed to compliance and transparency; it strives to demonstrate its benefit for the local residents and wider community. This statement identifies and sets out the aims, purpose, mission and public benefit that the charity provides.

Our Aims and Objectives

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a community-based charity providing opportunities and activities to address the needs of underprivileged people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.

Through small, targeted projects it empowers people to make significant lifestyle and social changes, and to achieve long-term improvements to their quality of life and that of their families. The activities focus on education and training, unemployment, social exclusion, equality and diversity, and improving the life chances of local people.

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works towards its vision of being a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and introducing innovative, new projects to meet the increasing needs of the local population. SocietyLinks aims to build strong partnerships with other organisations to maximize our efficiency and output. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets envisages being able to deliver services across the borough from different venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs within London.

Charitable Purpose and Mission

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' mission is to create opportunities and activities to address the needs of residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social change through creating practical projects.

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are General Charitable Purposes:

- (i) To promote the advancement of education, training, employment and enterprise support for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.
- (ii) To promote and organise educational and social development of young people who are socially excluded and disengaged from their aspirations.
- (iii) To provide a voice for an under represented generation.
- (iv) To promote equality and tackle exclusion.
- (v) To create opportunities and activities to address the significant needs of deprived and underprivileged residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social changes to improve the quality of life for those living and working in Tower Hamlets.

Beneficiaries

The overall objective of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is to build the capacity of residents on the local estates in Tower Hamlets and create a stronger, more vibrant community that all residents feel a part of and have a sense of ownership towards. We want to help individuals take part in activities, engage in training and work, and grasp opportunities with confidence. We have separate objectives for the different groups that we work with, and we aim to build networks within and between these groups, to create a supportive environment that will sustain personal development for residents.

Public Benefit

The beneficial impact of the work that SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets delivers is demonstrated through the outcomes achieved by these following, tailored projects:

- **Youth Services (ages 8-18) minimum 600 individuals registered as contacts across Tower Hamlets and City of London.**
- **Study Support (ages 12- 18) & Homework Club (ages 6-11) at least 150 individual children and young people have accessed the services**
- **Girls' Group (ages 8- 18) 125 girls and young women have attended at least one session**
- **Sports Sessions (ages 11-18) minimum of 200 young people have attended sports sessions such as football and multi-sports in the park.**
- **Exercise (women 18+) (Men 18+) 52 individuals have accessed the services for adults across three weekly sessions**
- **Holiday Programmes and activities (ages 5-16) 732 individual children and young people have been provided with lunch during a holiday period across Tower Hamlets and City of London**
- **Job Club (adults 18+) 48 adults have benefited from employment support**
- **E-safety Sessions (women 18+) & Chat and Chai (women 18+) minimum of 70 women have attended the sessions from all ages and backgrounds**
- **Stay and Play (ages 0-5) approximately 137 families of varying ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds have accessed the service**
- **Community Events (all ages) on average each event is attended by 400 people**
- **Sewing Class (ages 18+) 65 women have used the sewing sessions**
- **Autism/ SEND Awareness Group (ages 18+) 35 families and households have attended the SEND workshops or sessions**
- **Older People's Group (ages 50+) at least 40 individuals aged 50+ attend our services**
- **Cost of Living Food Distribution 300 households have received support from our food distribution**
- **ESOL/ PRE- ESOL (ages 18+) 75 attendees across the three classes including pre-ESOL**
- **Digital Divide Campaign (device distribution for 8-18 years) 26 devices were donated**
- **Training, workshops and courses (16+) 15 individuals attended training courses**
- **Detached Outreach and Referrals (whole community) 400 households reached through door knocking, canvassing and targeted outreach**

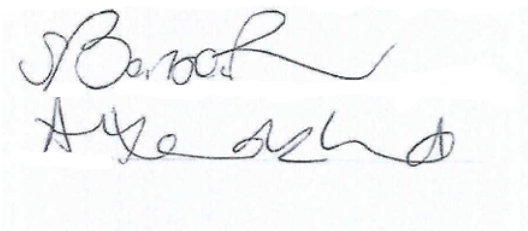
These projects help to:

- Offer opportunities to young people to engage in educational, diversionary and positive activities
- Encourage positive participation in society and community activities
- Develop the employability of job seekers and support advancement of those in work through training and support
- Facilitate the development of community networks to reduce isolation and promote community development
- Support individual/ families specific needs and disadvantages, implement inclusion and enhance their access to services and signpost accordingly
- Equip service users with skills, knowledge and information to empower them to have a voice and confidence to overcome barriers and make positive decisions
- Develop community cohesion and understanding among a diverse and culturally rich community

The ongoing success and benefit of these services is measured by their popularity and recorded attendance levels and the positive feedback from partners, service users and wider stakeholders reflects the continuous demand for increasing capacity and longevity of projects.

Charity Commission Public Benefit Guidance Compliance

We believe we have complied with our duty to have due regard to the commission’s public interest guidance wherever it is relevant to our activities.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink on a light-colored background. The top signature is cursive and appears to read 'J. Barber'. The bottom signature is also cursive and appears to read 'A. Yealand'.

Chair

Treasurer

Approved on: 01/12/2025

WhiteChapel Threshold Centre
80 John Fisher Street E1 8JX



0207-7020901



info@societylinks.org.uk



www.societylinks.org.uk



@society.links

Reg No. 07750061
Charity Reg No: 1154824

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Financial statements for the year ended
31 March 2025

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SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Name of Organisation: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Correspondence Address: The Whitechapel Centre
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX

Tel: 020 7702 0901

Chairperson: Sharon Barbour

Treasurer: Alex Kind

Trustees: James Ford
Nicole Quotromini
Joyce Archbold
Rahima Khanom

Independent Examiner: Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Banker: Natwest Plc
Plaistow Branch
386 Barking Road
London
E13 8JB

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees/Management Committee for the year ended 31st March 2025

The financial statements laid out in this report on page 3 to 5 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in March, 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and that you consider the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, this act does not apply. It is our responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 43(3) (e) of the 1993 Act. Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and;

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with general direction given by the Charity's Commissioner. The examination includes:

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- A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- It includes consideration of any unusual items if disclosures in the accounts.

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do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

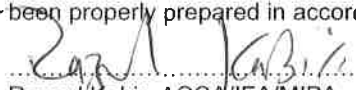
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 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which in our opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial statement as prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31st March 2025 and that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.


Razaul Kabir ACCA/IFA/MIPA

Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Date: 11th October 2025

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Income and Expense

For the Period Ended 31 March 2025

	Restricted	Unrestricted
Income	£	£
City of London	114,696	
City Bridge Foundation	41,593	
Action Fund	5,000	
LBTH - Mayors Community Grant	129,600	
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Cory Community fund	3,000	
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E training - Rent		6,698
Donations		4,953
Hall hire		365
Total Income	461,954	12,256
		474,210

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

		31.03.25		31.03.24
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Previous year
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grants:				
All Grants	-	461,954	461,954	440,799
Contracts	-		-	-
JRS (Furlough)	-	-	-	-
		461,954	461,954	440,799
Other income:				
Rental income	7,303		-	365
Donations	4,953			4,903
Total incoming resources	12,256	461,954	474,210	446,067
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Operating costs:				
Admin, Finance & Proj Mang		70,363		60,091
Project Staff		252,016		256,479
				-
Equipment, Trips & Project Costs		102,739		70,687
Rent		24,557		24,557
<u>Premises Cost</u>				
Cleaning		-		-
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>				
Subscriptions		-		
Training		3,922	1,154	
Fund Raising & Publicity		-	4,900	
Insurance		891	922	
Tel & Internet		324	360	
Pension		5,684	5,555	
		10,820		12,891
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Bank Charges	348			329
Governance costs				
Accountancy	1,260			1,260
Legal & Other Professional	1,650			3,720
Total resources expended	3,258	460,495	433,754	430,014
Net income	8,997	1,458	10,456	16,052

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Balance Sheet At 31 March 2025

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Amounts falling due within one year		(16,939)	(16,939)	(17,398)
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TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
NET ASSETS	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			138,431	132,103
Restricted funds			92,979	88,851
TOTAL FUNDS			231,410	220,954

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Trustees Report

Registered Name & Address: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, 80 John Fisher Street, London, E1 8JX

Registered Charity Number: 1154824

Registered Company Number: 7750061

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- (i) To promote the advancement of education, training, employment and enterprise support for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.
- (ii) To promote and organise educational and social development of young people who are socially excluded and disengaged from their aspirations.
- (iii) To provide a voice for an under represented generation.
- (iv) To promote equality and tackle exclusion.
- (v) To create opportunities and activities to address the significant needs of deprived and underprivileged residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social changes to improve the quality of life for those living and working in Tower Hamlets.

Beneficiaries

The overall objective of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is to build the capacity of residents on the local estates in Tower Hamlets and create a stronger, more vibrant community that all residents feel a part of and have a sense of ownership towards. We want to help individuals take part in activities, engage in training and work, and grasp opportunities with confidence. We have separate objectives for the different groups that we work with, and we aim to build networks within and between these groups, to create a supportive environment that will sustain personal development for residents.

Public Benefit

The beneficial impact of the work that SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets delivers is demonstrated through the outcomes achieved by these following, tailored projects:

- **Youth Services (ages 8-18) minimum 600 individuals registered as contacts across Tower Hamlets and City of London.**
- **Study Support (ages 12- 18) & Homework Club (ages 6-11) at least 150 individual children and young people have accessed the services**
- **Girls' Group (ages 8- 18) 125 girls and young women have attended at least one session**
- **Sports Sessions (ages 11-18) minimum of 200 young people have attended sports sessions such as football and multi-sports in the park.**
- **Exercise (women 18+) (Men 18+) 52 individuals have accessed the services for adults across three weekly sessions**
- **Holiday Programmes and activities (ages 5-16) 732 individual children and young people have been provided with lunch during a holiday period across Tower Hamlets and City of London**
- **Job Club (adults 18+) 48 adults have benefited from employment support**
- **E-safety Sessions (women 18+) & Chat and Chai (women 18+) minimum of 70 women have attended the sessions from all ages and backgrounds**
- **Stay and Play (ages 0-5) approximately 137 families of varying ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds have accessed the service**
- **Community Events (all ages) on average each event is attended by 400 people**
- **Sewing Class (ages 18+) 65 women have used the sewing sessions**
- **Autism/ SEND Awareness Group (ages 18+) 35 families and households have attended the SEND workshops or sessions**
- **Older People's Group (ages 50+) at least 40 individuals aged 50+ attend our services**
- **Cost of Living Food Distribution 300 households have received support from our food distribution**
- **ESOL/ PRE- ESOL (ages 18+) 75 attendees across the three classes including pre-ESOL**
- **Digital Divide Campaign (device distribution for 8-18 years) 26 devices were donated**
- **Training, workshops and courses (16+) 15 individuals attended training courses**
- **Detached Outreach and Referrals (whole community) 400 households reached through door knocking, canvassing and targeted outreach**

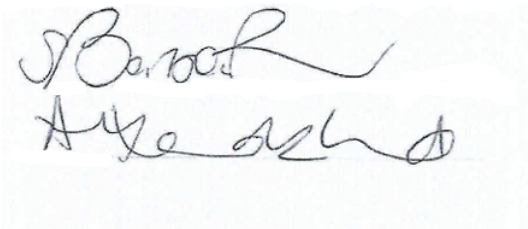
These projects help to:

- Offer opportunities to young people to engage in educational, diversionary and positive activities
- Encourage positive participation in society and community activities
- Develop the employability of job seekers and support advancement of those in work through training and support
- Facilitate the development of community networks to reduce isolation and promote community development
- Support individual/ families specific needs and disadvantages, implement inclusion and enhance their access to services and signpost accordingly
- Equip service users with skills, knowledge and information to empower them to have a voice and confidence to overcome barriers and make positive decisions
- Develop community cohesion and understanding among a diverse and culturally rich community

The ongoing success and benefit of these services is measured by their popularity and recorded attendance levels and the positive feedback from partners, service users and wider stakeholders reflects the continuous demand for increasing capacity and longevity of projects.

Charity Commission Public Benefit Guidance Compliance

We believe we have complied with our duty to have due regard to the commission’s public interest guidance wherever it is relevant to our activities.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink on a light blue background. The top signature is cursive and appears to read 'J. Barber'. The bottom signature is also cursive and appears to read 'A. Yealand'.

Chair

Treasurer

Approved on: 01/12/2025

Reg No. 07750061
Charity Reg No: 1154824

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Financial statements for the year ended
31 March 2025

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Trustees Report (Including Public benefit Statement)	6-8

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Name of Organisation: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Correspondence Address: The Whitechapel Centre
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX

Tel: 020 7702 0901

Chairperson: Sharon Barbour

Treasurer: Alex Kind

Trustees: James Ford
Nicole Quotromini
Joyce Archbold
Rahima Khanom

Independent Examiner: Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Banker: Natwest Plc
Plaistow Branch
386 Barking Road
London
E13 8JB

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees/Management Committee for the year ended 31st March 2025

The financial statements laid out in this report on page 3 to 5 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in March, 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and that you consider the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, this act does not apply. It is our responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 43(3) (e) of the 1993 Act. Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and;

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with general direction given by the Charity's Commissioner. The examination includes:

- A review of the accounting records kept by the Charity.
- A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- It includes consideration of any unusual items if disclosures in the accounts.

Finally, making explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters relating to the accounts. The examination also includes examination of any such matters of evidence relevant to the account of disclosures in the financial statements. It includes assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed. The procedures undertaken

do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

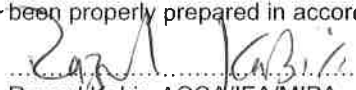
- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which in our opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial statement as prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31st March 2025 and that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.


Razaul Kabir ACCA/IFA/MIPA

Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Date: 11th October 2025

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Income and Expense

For the Period Ended 31 March 2025

	Restricted	Unrestricted
Income	£	£
City of London	114,696	
City Bridge Foundation	41,593	
Action Fund	5,000	
LBTH - Mayors Community Grant	129,600	
British Science Association	4,417	
Cory Community fund	3,000	
East End Community Foundation (EECF)	9,000	
Sports England - Movement Fund	14,496	
Garfield Weston	20,000	
Ground Work	1,000	
Hedley Grant	2,500	
Just Fact	10,900	
LCY Community	2,958	
Peabody	5,000	
Global Charities	30,000	
Goslin Foundation	5,000	
Merchant Taylors	3,000	
National Lottery Awards All	19,920	
Sheldon Trust	5,000	
Womens Environment Network	1,000	
Tower Network PCN	2,080	
Wakefield	3,000	
Worshipful Company of Gardens	2,500	
People's Health Trust	3,944	
Trust For London	18,750	
Tower Hill Trust	3,600	
East London Advance		240
E training - Rent		6,698
Donations		4,953
Hall hire		365
Total Income	461,954	12,256
		474,210

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

		31.03.25		31.03.24
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Previous year
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grants:				
All Grants	-	461,954	461,954	440,799
Contracts	-		-	-
JRS (Furlough)	-	-	-	-
		461,954	461,954	440,799
Other income:				
Rental income	7,303		-	365
Donations	4,953			4,903
Total incoming resources	12,256	461,954	474,210	446,067
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Operating costs:				
Admin, Finance & Proj Mang		70,363		60,091
Project Staff		252,016		256,479
				-
Equipment, Trips & Project Costs		102,739		70,687
Rent		24,557		24,557
<u>Premises Cost</u>				
Cleaning		-		-
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>				
Subscriptions		-		
Training		3,922	1,154	
Fund Raising & Publicity		-	4,900	
Insurance		891	922	
Tel & Internet		324	360	
Pension		5,684	5,555	
		10,820		12,891
<u>Financial Expenses</u>				
Bank Charges	348			329
Governance costs				
Accountancy	1,260			1,260
Legal & Other Professional	1,650			3,720
Total resources expended	3,258	460,495	433,754	430,014
Net income	8,997	1,458	10,456	16,052

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Balance Sheet At 31 March 2025

			31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank	138,431	57,463	195,894	175,897
Debtors		52,455	52,455	62,455
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year		(16,939)	(16,939)	(17,398)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
NET ASSETS	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			138,431	132,103
Restricted funds			92,979	88,851
TOTAL FUNDS			231,410	220,954

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Trustees Report

Registered Name & Address: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, 80 John Fisher Street, London, E1 8JX

Registered Charity Number: 1154824

Registered Company Number: 7750061

Public Benefits Statement

Introduction

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets as a registered charity is committed to compliance and transparency; it strives to demonstrate its benefit for the local residents and wider community. This statement identifies and sets out the aims, purpose, mission and public benefit that the charity provides.

Our Aims and Objectives

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a community-based charity providing opportunities and activities to address the needs of underprivileged people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.

Through small, targeted projects it empowers people to make significant lifestyle and social changes, and to achieve long-term improvements to their quality of life and that of their families. The activities focus on education and training, unemployment, social exclusion, equality and diversity, and improving the life chances of local people.

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works towards its vision of being a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and introducing innovative, new projects to meet the increasing needs of the local population. SocietyLinks aims to build strong partnerships with other organisations to maximize our efficiency and output. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets envisages being able to deliver services across the borough from different venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs within London.

Charitable Purpose and Mission

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' mission is to create opportunities and activities to address the needs of residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social change through creating practical projects.

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are General Charitable Purposes:

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Beneficiaries

The overall objective of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is to build the capacity of residents on the local estates in Tower Hamlets and create a stronger, more vibrant community that all residents feel a part of and have a sense of ownership towards. We want to help individuals take part in activities, engage in training and work, and grasp opportunities with confidence. We have separate objectives for the different groups that we work with, and we aim to build networks within and between these groups, to create a supportive environment that will sustain personal development for residents.

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The beneficial impact of the work that SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets delivers is demonstrated through the outcomes achieved by these following, tailored projects:

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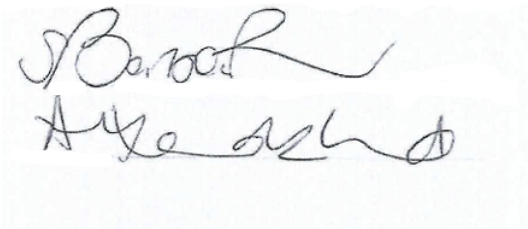
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Chair

Treasurer

Approved on: 01/12/2025

Accounts



SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets **Annual Report 2023-2024**



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Foreword from the Chair

It has been an honour to serve as the chairperson for SocietyLinks during the last year, and I can honestly say that the organisation has gone from strength to strength, having a wonderful year.

We have seen the launch of some new and exciting projects such as KitchenLinks as well as welcoming new starts and beginning new partnerships with a local women's refuge.

Our main success this year has been our secured funding for longer term projects as we all know how difficult it is now in the charity sector to secure sustainable funding.

I look forward to another exciting year with SocietyLinks as we continue to build bridges and break down barriers for those facing multiple disadvantages. We will continue to work in partnerships with other sectors and continue to secure even more longer term funding, so a lot of the services that we delivered, will not only be of a high standard, but will meet the needs of those participating in them.

Big thanks goes out to all the staff and volunteers that make SocietyLinks what it is today.



Sharon Barbour

Project Manager's report

The last year has been another busy and productive year, we have been focusing on stabilising our income to enable the security of our projects and staffing contracts.

I am happy to report that we have three multi-year contracts with LBTH as well as a five year grant with City Bridge Trust which has strengthened our position to try to gain accreditation with an awarding body.

We hope to begin the process of becoming a Trusted Charities Accredited organisation in the coming year.

We will continue to pursue our fundraising targets for existing services and projects as well as new identified needs in the community.



Joyce Archbold

About SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a vibrant community-based charity located in a community building on the Whitechapel Peabody Estate. Our mission is to address the needs of underprivileged local residents through creating opportunities and providing practical support. Our projects and services aim to empower local people to achieve tangible, positive change in their lives and those of their families. Our vision is to be a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and developing innovative, new projects to meet the changing needs of the local population. We aim to engage with local residents and build their confidence, capacity and wellbeing. We want to show them the wealth of opportunities around them and how they can connect with these. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works in partnership with other organisations to maximise our efficiency and output. We deliver services across the borough from a variety of venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs.

Core values

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets actively challenges discrimination and welcomes residents from all sections of the community regardless of their race, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, and political and cultural beliefs.

The core values of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets are as follows:

1. We value the residents of Tower Hamlets as an ethnically diverse community with rich experiences and high human potential.
2. We aim to support residents to:
 - a) Help them, one another, to live more fulfilling lives by securing better futures
 - b) Live healthy lives in a safe and comfortable environment
 - c) Participate in the life of the community
 - d) Take part in education, training, and recreation opportunities
 - e) Secure decent housing, employment, and an adequate income.
3. We endeavour:
 - a) To be accountable and responsive to residents.
 - b) To be flexible and innovative in the delivery of quality services.
 - c) To work in partnership with other agencies whenever possible and appropriate.
 - d) To oppose discrimination on grounds of race, religion, gender, age, sexuality and disability.

A brief history of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets was established in 2010. Its founders were passionate about offering opportunities to disadvantaged people in the local community to help support them to achieve better outcomes for themselves. The service began with the delivery of

youth services and English classes for beginners and was run wholly through the time and efforts of dedicated volunteers. This enabled SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets to develop a foundation within the community and start applying for funding to increase its services and deliver other projects to meet the needs of the service users. Over the years the services have developed according to the needs of the locals and SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is now a firm pillar in the local community.

Legal status

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The management constitutes two directors and a Management Committee made up of 11 members with an appointed chairperson, secretary and treasurer. A list of all Management Committee members can be found at the end of this report.

Constitution

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' constitution sets out the following objectives:

1. To advance education and training for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
2. To reduce unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit
3. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society
4. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by, for example:
 - a) Eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion
 - b) Advancing education and raising awareness of equality and diversity
 - c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds
 - d) Conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public
 - e) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.
5. To advance in life and relieve the needs of young people through the provision of:
 - a) Recreational and leisure activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life
 - b) Support and activities to develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
6. Such other charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine



SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets in 2023-2024

This year saw the launch of many new projects including our KitchenLinks programme, newly funded Mayor's Community Grant projects, and services for under 5s and girls and young women funded by City Bridge.

We worked with many partners over the year, including the NHS on the 'Be Body Positive' initiative and Diabetes UK with staff and volunteers taking part in the One Million Step Challenge to raise awareness and understanding of diabetes.

SocietyLinks' summer programme was very busy with several projects running simultaneously from various sites and we celebrated Christmas in style with multiple events for all our service users. We continued to run Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes across holiday periods and these are still as popular as ever.



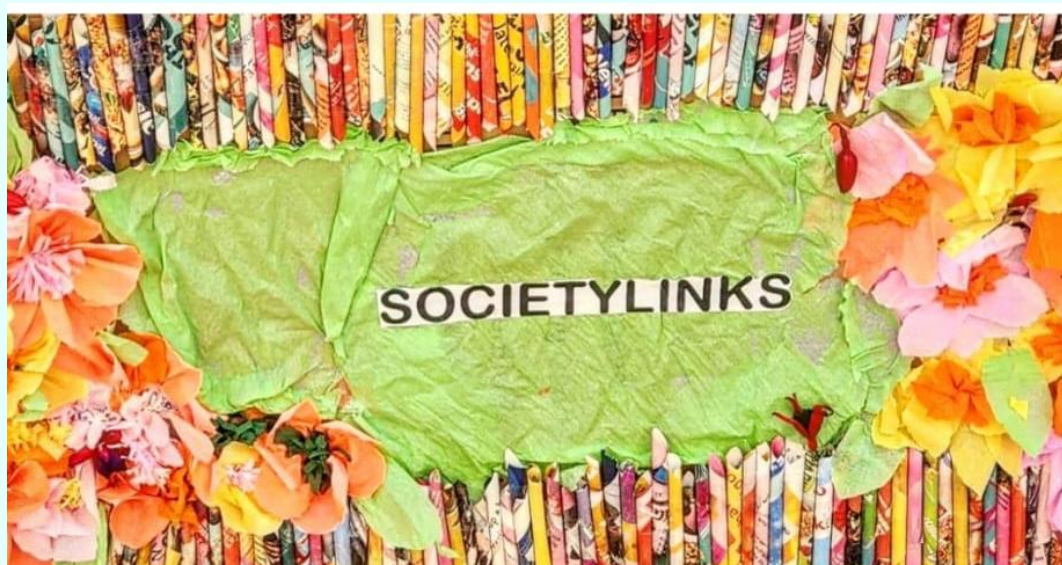
A year in figures: what we've achieved

Between April 2023 and March 2024:

- **1,734** residents used SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' services
- **563** residents attended a SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' community event
- **562** young people aged 8-19 years engaged with SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets
- **36** adults and young people took part in accredited training, in areas such as first aid, food safety, health and safety, customer service and ASDAN awards
- **78** residents received employment support (of whom 35% gained a job)
- **85** volunteers supported SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, including the Management Committee, young people gaining work experience, and residents of all ages helping at one-off events and regular sessions
- **£446,067** of funding was secured by SocietyLinks to continue delivering projects and services

Outcomes at a glance: 2023/24

- Residents have accessed targeted online employment support resulting in tangible progress towards sustainable employment.
- Residents have accessed pre-ESOL support resulting in increased literacy, confidence and independence.
- Young people have engaged in online and face-to-face youth club sessions with access to positive, constructive activities, educational workshops, sports and trips.
- Older people have attended weekly sessions at the centre where staff have been able to support them with issues.
- Vulnerable local residents and families have accessed free food packs.
- Local families with babies have accessed stay and play sessions receiving support and guidance on early development.
- Women have attended digital inclusion sessions and have gained skills to help them and their families overcome digital barriers.
- Households without access to digital devices have received devices to support educational attainment, progress and inclusiveness.
- Young people have gained certified qualifications through online training courses, increasing their employability and confidence.
- Young people have completed work experience and volunteering through the Summer Project, gaining confidence, skills and knowledge.
- Girls and young women have gained confidence and new skills through workshops and activities.
- There is a greater sense of cohesion within the community, with positive relationships among residents and a stronger sense of belonging to the locality.
- Children and young people have accessed online support with their school work and exam preparation, resulting in higher attainment in public exams.



Financial statement

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets ended the 2023/24 financial year in a stable financial position with new longer-term funding in place and a stronger reserve position, as demonstrated by our annual accounts.

We have continued our pro-active fundraising strategy – through our strong community connections and responsive planning we access funding for projects in line with the dynamically changing needs of the community continued to increasing our annual income year on year despite the funding difficulties faced by the entire charity sector during the Covid pandemic and beyond.

We have increased the size of our reserves in line with our increased operating costs due to running more projects; we have sufficient reserves to maintain a minimum of six months of our existing services in case of a shortfall or delay in income from grants.

Longer-term funding

We have multi-year funding in place for most of our larger projects having successfully applied for long-term grants to financially secure our existing large projects and to start more large projects, which has led us to provide new and existing services to new communities further away from our centre. We have always recognised that long-term funding is key to giving our service users and skilled staff confidence in our service continuity. This has enabled us to build trust and long-term relationships with new and existing users of our services.

The charity funding environment continues to be under great pressure as we move towards a post-Covid world where the lasting cost of the pandemic is continuing to constrain public and private funding for the charity sector. Similarly, the cost-of-living crisis is impacting all sectors of society; it is constraining funding availability while causing the needs of service users to grow rapidly. We already have funding in place for most of our projects in the medium term and we are confident we can access further funding to secure the longer-term provision of our existing services.

Forecast

In 2024/25 funding will continue to be a priority and challenge for SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, as is the case for the entire charity sector, particularly considering the difficulties of the post-Covid funding environment where the costs of the pandemic are still being counted by all sectors of society. Alongside this, the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is beginning to acutely affect our service users who are amongst the hardest hit.

We are confident that given our successful performance, specifically through the pandemic period, funders will feel confident to support us even more despite the tightening funding environment.

We aim to further consolidate our position while continuing our expansion into other community centres and service areas through taking on larger-scale and longer-term projects. Our financial aim for 2024/25 is to secure larger, multi-year grants of between £80,000 and £200,000 across three-year funding periods to finance for our long-term projects and to give the organisation longer-term stability and consistent growth.



Community services

Job Club

The Job Club is an ongoing, core service with a steady flow of new people attending. We were able to provide help with writing CVs and personal statements, interview practice, sending people to job fairs, and providing volunteering opportunities for those who were looking for experience. Many had successful outcomes with job applications and have secured employment in various roles in schools, nurseries and other professions.

Better Jobs

Better Jobs continues to support people to find better employment and career prospects for themselves. It offered training such as short courses for individual development as well as group training for continuous personal development. Many individuals have secured more hours, more senior roles and higher pay due to supported training and completion of qualifications.

Digital Divide

We have focused on equipping individuals within the Older People's Club to gain the skills and confidence needed to navigate everyday technology such as smartphones and laptops. Our efforts have provided valuable insights into using these devices effectively, enabling participants to integrate technology into their daily lives and overcome the lack of confidence with and knowledge of technology associated with older people. We have worked to help those in the group feel comfortable using the internet for essential tasks, such as checking the weather, accessing on-demand news updates, and navigating social media platforms like WhatsApp. With our guidance members of the group have learnt to use applications to maximise their benefits. In addition, we have supported individuals in becoming proficient with online websites and services that enhance their day-to-day activities. For example, we have provided training on using the NHS app for health monitoring and medical appointments, as well as guidance on grocery delivery websites like Tesco for those with mobility challenges. These efforts aim to empower individuals to embrace technology, improving their independence and quality of life.

Over 50s Group

Our funding for the Over 50s Group from L&Q came to an end in December this year, but we were very fortunate that LBTH Mayor's Grants fund saw how valuable the service was to the community and agreed to fund the service. The programme offers residents digital support, access to gardening activities in the Swedenborg orchard, exercise sessions and other social activities. The attendees enjoy their arts and crafts and a game of bingo, as well as conversing and enjoying each others' company. They attend events as a group and we held a Christmas party for them at Raines House with special guests.



Fisher Foods

Fisher Foods continues to run as a foodbank service resourced by London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) foodbank service and the Felix Project. The deliveries vary each week but we are seeing more and more families coming to us for help. The support is very much appreciated by the families, especially those with elderly members and young children.

The service is run by a group of our committed volunteers who receive the deliveries, sort and arrange the food, and distribute food parcels to the local residents.

During the holidays we also accept food boxes from the Mayor of London's Take and Make scheme. The boxes come with recipes and ingredients to cook a meal for a family of four to five. The boxes usually contain fresh fruit and vegetables and offer a healthy hot meal for families. We distribute approximately 90 to 120 of these boxes each holiday.



Insanity Fitness

Insanity Fitness on a Tuesday evening is a very popular session with frequent demands for additional sessions. The session is aimed at men aged over 18 years and aims to increase their general fitness and strength through resistance training exercises. The session is run by a qualified instructor who is passionate about helping people to make better choices in life and improve their wellbeing.

Diabetes UK One Million Step Challenge

Staff and volunteers took part in the Diabetes UK One Million Step Challenge to raise money and awareness for a condition that affects the majority of our local residents. A total of £700 pounds were raised to support this amazing cause.



King's Coronation

We held a traditional street party to celebrate the new King's Coronation with lots of treats and refreshments, as well as local traditions such as jellied eels, which was a new experience for many! All residents were welcome to join in and we had a wonderful range of ages and backgrounds attend. It was a lovely event for the whole community.



Christmas 2023

Christmas 2023 was celebrated with a community party at Stockholm House with Santa's grotto and gifts for the local children donated by ELBA and UBS as part of the annual toy appeal. Families enjoyed popcorn and hot dogs and took part in festive games and competitions.

We also had separate events at Raines House for our older people's group and our under 5s, which were a great success. The parties were visited by a local team from the British Transport Police who sang Christmas carols and joined in with the dancing.



KitchenLinks

This year saw the launch of the KitchenLinks programme, which offers online cooking classes for families every week via Instagram Live, as well as budgeting sessions and support with pre-ESOL and numeracy.

KitchenLinks is hugely popular with as many as 30 families joining the cooking session each week. A selected number of families receive the ingredients to cook with and there is a rotating waiting list for this. The recipes are chosen to be healthy, adaptable and budget friendly. Each meal costs around £7 and feeds a family of four to five people. We also focused on making homemade alternatives to popular high street fast food chains to reduce the amount of money families were spending on takeaways and to raise awareness about healthy choices.



Gardening

Our community garden programme launched this year. We took time to clean and restore the community garden and put in growing boxes, which we have allocated to residents. Everyone is very excited about starting to grow in their boxes in the coming months.

We also started our orchard project called 'Eat not, waste not', which focuses on reducing food waste and the impact of waste on the local environment. It facilitates the use of hot bins to compost food waste and the mulching of green waste. Residents have volunteered to help out and we are running workshops and sessions in the orchard to help others understand what they can do to help.



Training hub

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets partnered with training providers to deliver Childcare Level 2 training and ESOL courses. Both courses were popular and saw many individuals gain their first qualifications.

Pre-ESOL

Our Pre-ESOL sessions are in high demand. Due to their success we continued to run these sessions this year after securing some funding. We have a waiting list and have two cohorts running consecutively.

The sessions have had amazing outcomes including progression onto ESOL, confidence in speaking, enabling independence and communication, and the gaining of first literacy skills for many individuals.

Staff training and development

We had a staff away day hosted by an external consultant who encouraged the team to talk about visions for the organisation, revisit the original ethos and mission, and also strategise for the future. It was a great day that generated many ideas from staff and volunteers on ways to improve the service and the organisation as a whole. The team enjoyed coming together, seeing all their colleagues and spending time with each other.

We continue to support our Business Management Apprentice, who is working towards her Level 5 qualification. We have another member of staff who will start her Youth Work qualification soon. Three others staff members are currently working towards their Childcare qualifications.

All staff continue to receive their statutory training including safeguarding refreshers, first aid and other areas such as equality and diversity training and health and safety refreshers.



Women's services

Stay Smart, Stay Safe

Our ever-popular women's group continues to run every Thursday with continued funding from LBTH under the Mayor's Community Grants. The project invites guest speakers, including the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) who visit regularly and deliver workshops and discussions on different issues around safety in the local area. Women are able to ask questions and talk about their concerns or things that they have heard about happening locally. Rumours can often lead to fear and misconceptions among residents and the SNT help to dismantle these with facts and case studies.

Attendees have formed strong supportive networks that cross over faiths, cultures and age groups. The women enjoy a craft activity each week, while participating in an informative workshop. They have painted canvases, and have enjoyed embroidery, weaving and textile design.

The workshop topics have included learning about safety within the home, domestic violence, heart conditions and signs and symptoms for women, the menopause and understanding its impact and choices available, cervical cancer awareness and celebrating motherhood, parenting and being a carer.



Drug awareness workshop

The local community support officers visited the SocietyLinks centre to deliver a workshop to promote drug awareness. It provided the women, particularly those who are mothers, with valuable knowledge about the dangers of substance abuse that they and their children could face, early warning signs, and available resources for prevention and support. It empowered them to make informed decisions, protect their families, and foster open communication with their children about the risks associated with drugs. Additionally, it created a supportive environment where participants could share experiences, seek guidance and connect with local services, contributing to a healthier, more resilient community.



Sewing

Our sewing session is a hub of creativity where attendees are now supporting each other to create amazing items from scraps of fabric and reused textiles. The group created a cover for a local family's fabric bed base, which had been ruined due to damp conditions in the house. After thoroughly cleaning the bed she told the group that she could not get rid of the stains



and it had become an eyesore, but she was not in a position to replace it. The group worked together to make removable covers for her bed frame to make it look more aesthetically pleasing and be easy to keep clean. The group has also designed storage bags using fabric scraps and put together different items of clothing to make new items.

The project not only provides a space to create and recycle, but the support that the women receive from each other is invaluable: they teach each other and share skills. Many find the sessions therapeutic because they are able to have open discussions about things that may be bothering them without feeling pressured.

'I love coming sewing every week. It's so nice to see everyone and we always make something crazy each week. I can't really sew much but I love watching everyone and learning. It's so good. You leave the session smiling every week.' Juheara

Girls' Group

Girls' Group at SocietyLinks continued this year with increased popularity and evident progress among the attendees. The weekly sessions combine creative activities and informative workshops. This structure incorporates discussion around an educational topic of interest alongside an activity for the girls to look forward to.

The creative activities aim to engage the participants and pique interest in developing new skills. Through guided demonstrations the girls have learnt how to do a range of crafts, such as crocheting bags and painting on different mediums such as glass, silk and other materials. They have also been shown how to make desserts, model clay, make stationary and other creative activities that are currently trending or popular. These activities give the girls access to resources to further their creativity. It also allows them to bond with other attendees of similar ages and interests, encouraging teamwork and community solidarity.

The informative workshops focus on societal and personal issues that young girls face within the community such as body positivity, mental health, bullying, puberty, safety and other dilemmas that young females are dealing with, tailored to their age. The workshops create a safe environment for girls in the community to speak openly and freely without judgement, and we can provide them with support, advice and professional guidance.

The participants are aged between eight and 16 years and the sessions welcome up to 30 girls weekly. The sessions are important for community improvement and have sustained popularity with regular attendees over 6 years.

International Women's Day

This year International Women's Day focused on empowering women. We had guest speakers from SNT and Women's Network who spoke about the help and support services available. The women shared food and made their own hand lotions. It was a lovely occasion celebrating our strong women and giving them the recognition they deserve.



Youth services

Youth club

This year's youth club offered weekly sessions filled with engaging activities such as pool, PlayStation, workshops, art and crafts, and science projects. Local young people appreciated having a welcoming environment where they could unwind and connect with peers, while accessing support from qualified youth workers. Tailored workshops addressed issues relevant to young people, and referrals were made to external organisations when needed.



The club particularly targeted 10-16 year olds, providing them with opportunities to participate in activities independently with their friends. The sessions played a significant role in reducing isolation during out-of-school hours. Parents expressed confidence in the programme, knowing their teenagers were in a secure and supervised space.

One of the highlights of the youth club was a planned 10,000 step walk to Regent's Park. The group planned their route and monitored their steps and calories burned during the walk. It was the first time that many young people had walked so far and they all felt very proud of themselves after completing the walk.

The youth club held a Bake Off Challenge, which was an amazing event showcasing the talents of the young people and their passion for learning new skills and baking. They worked in teams to decorate their own bakes, which were then judged by two visitors. The event was a lovely way for young people to try new things and be creative.



NHS Be Body Positive

Our young people were asked to take part and support the design of a new NHS initiative to address disordered eating. They took part in consultations and gave feedback as well as suggesting the name for the website. It was a great programme to be part of. We all learnt a lot about disordered eating and we heard from our young people about how they feel about their bodies and the factors impacting on their self image and body awareness.

City Of London Youth Service

Our partnership with the City of London continues to deliver exceptional services for children's play. This included one weekly outreach session and two centre-based sessions at Golden Lane and Portsoken for two distinct age groups. A popular addition to the

programme this year was a girls' group, which happens on Friday afternoons and has been very well received.

Themes for our activities were chosen to resonate with young people and included topics such as substance misuse, body confidence, social media, and broader issues including Black History Month, environmental awareness and current affairs.

The girls' group asked for a make-up course so we ran a six-week course with a qualified beautician who delivered workshops on skincare, make up application, and other tips and techniques.

We also delivered HAF programmes throughout the holidays as well as trips and events including Christmas parties and summer community fun days.

We were funded to create a booklet to make access to information and services within the City of London easier for residents and visitors. The booklet is a lovely, easy-to-read resource, which has been widely shared across the borough.

Taekwondo

Through our taekwondo sessions, young people continued to develop confidence and achieve gradings, while participating in structured workshops and personal development activities. The sessions were run by youth workers alongside trained taekwondo masters, ensuring comprehensive support for attendees.

This year we welcomed new participants, including young women and SEND students, into the programme. Older participants took on mentoring roles, helping to build their leadership skills and personal growth.

Boxing and self-defence We secured funding from Hargreaves Foundation to deliver boxing and self-defence classes for our young people. The popular sessions were delivered by qualified coaches.

Saturday Sports

Saturday mornings in the park became a hub for children aged 8-12, who took part in youth worker-led sports activities as part of the Saturday Sports programme. Participants engaged in football, cricket, basketball and other games that enhanced their health, fitness, and teamwork skills.

These sessions provided opportunities for children to learn, practise and refine their skills, while enjoying the company of their peers in a supportive setting.

Study Support

Our Study Support programme caters to children and young people at different stages of their academic journeys, offering targeted assistance. For 8-12 year olds, a weekly session led by two qualified teachers provided a structured environment with worksheets and tasks for those without homework. GCSE maths preparation was offered for 14-16 year



olds identified as struggling, delivered through focused sessions led by a specialist tutor. Additionally, an online maths tuition service was introduced for 15-18 year olds preparing for GCSE and A-Level exams. Delivered in one-to-one or paired formats, these sessions offered personalised teaching time.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

During the school holidays, we delivered our HAF programme, providing a mix of fun activities and meals. The sessions included football, table tennis, cricket, art and crafts, writing competitions, and more, giving children an enriching and safe way to spend their holidays. With access to qualified youth workers, children felt supported, and the programme provided a much-needed safety net for vulnerable families by offering free meals and supervised activities.

Stay-and-Play Sessions

Recognising the need for services supporting parents with children under five, we introduced stay-and-play sessions following feedback from the community. Many parents had reported feeling isolated after the Covid-19 lockdowns, which had also affected their children's socialisation.

Led by an experienced play worker, these sessions were carefully designed to provide meaningful play opportunities for children while offering guidance and reassurance to parents. Participants praised the sessions for their inclusivity and positive impact on mental health, with parents highlighting the quality of the development resources used.



The sessions included taking the toddlers on nature walks in the orchard and planting sessions during which they were able to get messy in the outdoor environment and learn about the nature around them.

Science Week

The young people took part in many different science experiments, which was a lot of fun for all, including making lava lamps, which were very popular. Young people enjoyed the exciting side of science and applying and sharing some of their knowledge to the tasks that we set up for them.



Summer Project 2023

The Summer Project consisted of three separate programmes this year. We had our mainstream HAF programme delivered from Swedenborg Gardens, a SEND HAF programme focused on targeted sports activities delivered from the Limehouse Youth Centre, and an Eco-Arts Project based at SocietyLinks.

All three programmes were hugely successful and we celebrated the end of all the programmes with two big community BBQs.

We worked with more than 200 young people across the summer and supported 15 young people on our young volunteers scheme, through which young people were able to gain work experience across the different sectors of our organisation.

We had visits throughout the summer from the SNT, police horses and the British Transport Police to support our programme delivery.



RainbowLinks

RainbowLinks, with its new funder LBTH, offered integrated services for young people with SEND, as well as continuing with monthly webinars with experts and guest speakers to support parents and carers.

We have started a designated session to support our SEND cohort with homework and youth activities and all sessions are now equipped to welcome young people with additional needs.



Staff, Management Committee and volunteers 2023/24

Staff

Project Manager: Joyce Archbold
Deputy Manager: Rahima Khanom
Finance Officer: Nozmul Hussain
Finance Assistant: Mohsin Amin
Office Manager: Mahira Yasmin
Youth Work Manager: Natasha Freya
Youth Work Lead: Joynul Ahmed
Youth Worker Lead: Syed Ahmed
Tutor: Sultana Begum
Tutor: Heather Smith
Project Worker: Bulirun Nessa
Project Worker: Rita Rahman
Project Coordinator: Hasina Begum
Project Assistant: Ruksana Begum
Admin Assistant: Nusrat Begum
Youth Worker: Farhana Kadir
Youth Worker: Betina Wembo
Youth worker: Madihah Khan
Youth Worker: Tara Maria Rathour
Youth Worker: Aneesah Rahsid
Youth Worker: Samad Hussain
Youth Worker: Antoine Louis
Youth Worker: Ambia Begum
Youth Worker: Shah Ahad
Early Years Leader: Pipeta O'Brian
Project Worker: Sayra Khanom
Project Worker: Shana Khatun
Project Worker: Shozwana Khanom
Project Worker: Shanaz Begum
Project Worker: Genia Leontowitsch
Sports Worker: Yasir Hyder
Sports Worker: Sayek Khan
Sports Worker: Jumera Chowdhury
Sports Worker: Ashraf Ali
Sports Worker: Abjol Miah
Media Support: Sajia Hussain

Board of Trustees

Chair: Sharon Barbour
Treasurer: Alex Kind
Secretary: James Ford
Trustee: Rahima Khanom
Trustee: Nicole Quotromini
Managing Director: Joyce Archbold

Volunteers

Ian Roberts
Shozwana Begum
Asma Begum
Jaheda Aktar
Samid Ahmed
Yasir Hyder
Ayesha Gulzar
Noushin Begum
Shana Khatun
Khalida Khatun
Jannat Ahmed
Shajeda Aktar
Mariam Ali
Ujjwala Dasgupta
Habiba Khatun
Foyzur Rahman
Ameer Alyaas
Saima Khanom
Zahra Salam
Theo Isaaq

Accountant

Earl and Grey Accountants: Razaul Kabir

Partners and funders

Partners

Peabody Housing Association
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower Hamlets Homes
East End Homes
Pollyanna Theatre School
Linkage Plus
ELBA
Prevista Training
London Training Centre
Jobcentre Plus
Savage Words
Wapping Youth FC
Ocean Youth Connections
Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership
Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
Community Food Enterprise
Team DJB Taekwondo
Island House
St Mary's Church
Sundial Centre
Incy Wincy Playgroup
London Learning Consortium
JTP Architects
Swedenborg Society
Wates Group
Citadel
The Felix Project

Current funders

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower Hill Trust
Wakefield Trust
Peabody
Just Fact
Global Charities
Cripple Gate Foundation
East End Community Foundation
ELBA
City of London
L&Q
London Community Foundation
Seven Stars Foundation
City of London – City Bridge Trust
Hargreaves Foundation
William Wates Memorial Trust
People's Health Trust
Trust For London
British Science Association

Reg No. 07750061
Charity Reg No: 1154824

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Financial statements for the year ended
31 March 2024

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

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SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Name of Organisation: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Correspondence Address: The Whitechapel Centre
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX

Tel: 020 7702 0901

Chairperson: Sharon Barbour

Treasurer: Alex Kind

Trustees: Joyce Archbold
Nicole Quatromini
James Ford
Rahima Khanom

Independent Examiner: Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Banker: Natwest Plc
Plaistow Branch
386 Barking Road
London
E13 8JB

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees/Management Committee for the year ended
31st March 2024

The financial statements laid out in this report on page 3 to 5 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in March, 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and that you consider the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, this act does not apply. It is our responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 43(3) (a) of the 1993 Act. Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and;

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with general direction given by the Charity's Commissioner. The examination includes:

- . A review of the accounting records kept by the Charity.
- . A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- . It includes consideration of any unusual items if disclosures in the accounts.

Finally, making explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters relating to the accounts. The examination also includes examination of any such matters of evidence relevant to the account of disclosures in the financial statements. It includes assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

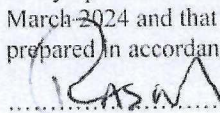
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which in our opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial statement as prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31st March 2024 and that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.


Razaul Kabir ACCA/IFA/MIPA
Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Date: 11th October 2024

SOCIETY LINKS**Income and Expense**

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Restricted	Unrestricted
Income	£	£
City of London	138,410	
LBTH - Local Community Fund	28,577	
LBTH - Main Stream	105,459	
The Hargreaves Foundation	20,000	
Just Fact	10,900	
Cripple Gate Foundation	1,000	
L&Q Placemakers	2,500	
Global Charities	35,000	
London Community Foundation	15,000	
Seven Stars Foundation	200	
William Wates Memorial Trust	9,757	
People's Health Trust	13,805	
Trust For London	48,750	
East End Community Foundation (EECF)	4,000	
Tower Hill Trust	3,640	
London Learning Consortium (LLC)	3,800	
Donations		4,903
Hall hire		365
Total Income	440,799	5,268
		446,067

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

		31.03.24		31.03.23
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Previous year
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grants:				
All Grants	-	440,799	440,799	339,913
Contracts	-	-	-	100,000
JRS (Furlough)	-	-	-	-
		440,799	440,799	439,913
Other income:				
Rental income	365	-	-	265
Donations	4,903	-	-	1,042
Total incoming resources	5,268	440,799	446,067	441,220
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Operating costs:				
Admin, Finance & Proj Mang	-	60,091	-	92,216
Project Staff	-	256,479	-	248,330
		-	-	-
Equipment, Trips & Project Costs	-	70,687	-	62,143
Rent	-	24,557	-	14,228
Premises Cost				
Cleaning	-	-	-	-
Administrative Expenses				
Subscriptions	-	-	150	-
Training	-	1,154	11,262	-
Fund Raising & Publicity	4,900	-	2,870	-
Insurance	-	922	1,013	-
Tel & Internet	-	360	420	-
Pension	-	5,555	5,374	-
		7,991	-	21,089
Financial Expenses				
Bank Charges	329	-	-	342
Governance costs				
Accountancy	1,260	-	-	3,315
Legal & Other Professional	3,720	-	-	3,344
Total resources expended	10,209	419,806	430,014	445,007
Net income	(4,941)	20,993	16,052	(3,787)

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Balance Sheet

At 31 March 2024

			31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank	132,103	43,794	175,897	161,264
Debtors		62,455	62,455	51,475
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year		(17,398)	(17,398)	(7,837)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>132,103</u>	<u>88,851</u>	<u>220,954</u>	<u>204,902</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>132,103</u>	<u>88,851</u>	<u>220,954</u>	<u>204,902</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>132,103</u>	<u>88,851</u>	<u>220,954</u>	<u>204,902</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			132,103	117,470
Restricted funds			88,851	87,432
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>220,954</u>	<u>204,902</u>

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Management Committee Report

Registered Name & Address: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, 80 John Fisher Street, London, E1 8JX

Registered Charity Number: 1154824

Registered Company Number: 7750061

Public Benefits Statement

Introduction

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets as a registered charity is committed to compliance and transparency; it strives to demonstrate its benefit for the local residents and wider community. This statement identifies and sets out the aims, purpose, mission and public benefit that the charity provides.

Our Aims and Objectives

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a community-based charity providing opportunities and activities to address the needs of underprivileged people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.

Through small, targeted projects it empowers people to make significant lifestyle and social changes, and to achieve long-term improvements to their quality of life and that of their families. The activities focus on education and training, unemployment, social exclusion, equality and diversity, and improving the life chances of local people. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works towards its vision of being a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and introducing innovative, new projects to meet the increasing needs of the local population. SocietyLinks aims to build strong partnerships with other organisations to maximize our efficiency and output. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets envisages being able to deliver services across the borough from different venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs within London.

Charitable Purpose and Mission

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' mission is to create opportunities and activities to address the needs of residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social change through creating practical projects. The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are General Charitable Purposes:

- (i) To promote the advancement of education, training, employment and enterprise support for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.
- (ii) To promote and organise educational and social development of young people who are socially excluded and disengaged from their aspirations.
- (iii) To provide a voice for an under represented generation.
- (iv) To promote equality and tackle exclusion.
- (v) To create opportunities and activities to address the significant needs of deprived and underprivileged residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social changes to improve the quality of life for those living and working in Tower Hamlets.

Beneficiaries

The overall objective of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is to build the capacity of residents on the local estates in Tower Hamlets and create a stronger, more vibrant community that all residents feel a part of and have a sense of ownership towards. We want to help individuals take part in activities, engage in training and work, and grasp opportunities with confidence. We have separate objectives for the different groups that we work with, and we aim to build networks within and between these groups, to create a supportive environment that will sustain personal development for residents.

Public Benefit

The beneficial impact of the work that SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets delivers is demonstrated through the outcomes achieved by these following, tailored projects:

- Youth Services (ages 8-18) minimum 500 individuals registered as contacts across Tower Hamlets and City of London.
- Study Support (ages 12- 18) & Homework Club (ages 6-11) at least 150 individual children and young people have accessed the services
- Girls' Group (ages 8- 18) 125 girls and young women have attended at least one session
- Sports Sessions (ages 11-18) minimum of 205 young people have attended sports sessions such as football and multi-sports in the park.
- Exercise (women 18+) (Men 18+) 60 individuals have accessed the services for adults across three weekly sessions
- Holiday Programmes and activities (ages 5-16) 732 individual children and young people have been provided with lunch during a holiday period across Tower Hamlets and City of London
- Job Club (adults 18+) 78 adults have benefited from employment support
- IT Class (adults 18+) 60 adults have accessed IT support including completing online courses
- E-safety Sessions (women 18+) & Chat and Chai (women 18+) minimum of 70 women have attended the sessions from all ages and backgrounds
- Stay and Play (ages 0-5) approximately 145 families of varying ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds have accessed the service
- Community Events (all ages) on average each event is attended by 300 people
- Sewing Class (ages 18+) 65 women have used the sewing sessions
- Autism/ SEND Awareness Group (ages 18+) 35 families and households have attended the SEND workshops or sessions
- Older People's Group (ages 50+)at least 40 individuals aged 50+ attend our services
- Cost of Living Food Distribution (all ages) 300 households have received support from our food distribution
- ESOL/ Pre- ESOL (ages 18+) 75 attendees across the three classes including pre-ESOL
- Digital Divide Campaign (device distribution for 8-18years) 34 devices were donated
- Training, workshops and courses (16+) 36 individuals attended training courses
- Detached Outreach and Referrals (whole community)600 households reached through door knocking, canvassing and targeted outreach

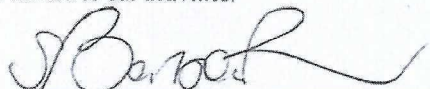
These projects help to:

- Offer opportunities to young people to engage in educational, diversionary and positive activities
- Encourage positive participation in society and community activities
- Develop the employability of job seekers and support advancement of those in work through training and support
- Facilitate the development of community networks to reduce isolation and promote community development
- Create opportunities/ access to resources and support that they may otherwise not have access to
- Support individual/ families specific needs and disadvantages, implement inclusion and enhance their access to services and signpost accordingly
- Equip service users with skills, knowledge and information to empower them to have a voice and confidence to overcome barriers and make positive decisions
- Develop community cohesion and understanding among a diverse and culturally rich community
- Support integration and resettlement for newcomers

The ongoing success and benefit of these services is measured by their popularity and recorded attendance levels and the positive feedback from partners, service users and wider stakeholders reflects the continuous demand for increasing capacity and longevity of projects.

Charity Commission Public Benefit Guidance Compliance

We believe we have complied with our duty to have due regard to the commission's public interest guidance wherever it is relevant to our activities.




Chairperson

Treasurer

Approved on: 16/01/25



SocietyLinks

Tower Hamlets

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Accounts

Annual Report 2022-2023



Societyinks
Tower Hamlets

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Foreword from the Chair

This year has been a huge success for SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets and I feel proud to have been part of its leadership team.

SocietyLinks has delivered a wide range of exciting projects that have achieved excellent outcomes. Our work in the City of London with Afghan families particularly stands out. It showcased the depth of skill among the staff and their passion and dedication to help others and improve life opportunities. This year we also saw the departure of our long-standing Director and Management Committee member, Abdul Hoque Habib. We wish him all the best for his future endeavours and thank him for his time and dedication during his time with us.

I look forward to another year of innovative ideas and success stories in 2023/24 and am excited to see how SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets continues to develop.



Sharon Barbour

Project Manager's Report

We have had an exciting year starting our City of London youth projects and taking on the delivery of the resettlement programme with Afghan families. Both of these were fantastic opportunities that allowed us to display our strengths in understanding the community and residents' needs, and tailoring services to meet their needs.

Our staff were able to break down barriers, form positive relationships, and have successful engagement with hard-to-reach children and young people facing complex issues and trauma. We created a video in celebration of our achievements and the outcomes achieved by our Afghan service users during their time with us that we hope to share more widely this year.

The coming year will see the launch of our interactive cooking programme, funded by Global Make Some Noise. This exciting project will enable us to reach a very wide spectrum of families and produce robust, positive outcomes.

We have prioritised specific issues to tackle next year, one of them being isolation among the elderly and parents of young children. We will also be focusing on increasing services for men having identified a need for this locally.

I look forward to another busy year, working with existing and new service users, supporting them to access new opportunities.



Joyce Archbold

About SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a vibrant community-based charity located in a community building on the Whitechapel Peabody Estate. Our mission is to address the needs of underprivileged local residents through creating opportunities and providing practical support. Our projects and services aim to empower local people to achieve tangible, positive change in their lives and those of their families. Our vision is to be a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and developing innovative, new projects to meet the changing needs of the local population. We aim to engage with local residents and build their confidence, capacity and wellbeing. We want to show them the wealth of opportunities around them and how they can connect with these. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works in partnership with other organisations to maximise our efficiency and output. We deliver services across the borough from a variety of venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs.

Core values

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets actively challenges discrimination and welcomes residents from all sections of the community regardless of their race, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, and political and cultural beliefs.

The core values of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets are as follows:

1. We value the residents of Tower Hamlets as an ethnically diverse community with rich experiences and high human potential.
2. We aim to support residents to:
 - a) Help one another to live more fulfilling lives by securing better futures
 - b) Live healthy lives in a safe and comfortable environment
 - c) Participate in the life of the community
 - d) Take part in education, training, and recreation opportunities
 - e) Secure decent housing, employment, and an adequate income.
3. We endeavour:
 - a) To be accountable and responsive to residents
 - b) To be flexible and innovative in the delivery of quality services
 - c) To work in partnership with other agencies whenever possible and appropriate
 - d) To oppose discrimination on grounds of race, religion, gender, age, sexuality and disability.

A brief history of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets was established in 2010. Its founders were passionate about offering opportunities to disadvantaged people in the local community to help support them to achieve better outcomes for themselves. The service began with the delivery of youth services and English classes for beginners and was run wholly through the time and efforts of dedicated volunteers. This enabled SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets to develop a foundation within the community and start applying for funding to increase its services and deliver other projects to meet the needs of the service users. Over the years the services have developed according to the needs of the locals and SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is now a firm pillar in the local community.

Legal status

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The management constitutes two directors and a Management Committee made up of 11 members with an appointed chairperson, secretary and treasurer. A list of all Management Committee members can be found at the end of this report.

Constitution

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' constitution sets out the following objectives:

1. To advance education and training for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
2. To reduce unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit
3. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society
4. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by, for example:
 - a) Eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion
 - b) Advancing education and raising awareness of equality and diversity
 - c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds
 - d) Conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public
 - e) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.
5. To advance in life and relieve the needs of young people through the provision of:
 - a) Recreational and leisure activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life
 - b) Support and activities to develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
6. Such other charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets in 2022-2023

This year has seen a lot of changes in how we deliver our services due to greater and evolving demand. We have had increased requests for health-related services and development programmes. The building has returned to pre-pandemic levels of activity and is once again very busy six days a week with a wide range of services on offer for a very varied spectrum of service users. We have introduced new projects this year such as our SEND stay-and-play sessions and our older people's group. We have also been planning the launch of our online interactive cooking programme in May 2023.

A key highlight for this year has been the chance to talk on LBC radio with Nick Ferrari and the Capital Xtra Breakfast Show, raising awareness about the key issues we are targeting and our campaigns.

Key issues

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works closely with the community and has an in-depth understanding of and insight into the needs and difficulties faced by local residents. The community is still reeling from the after-effects of the pandemic, with many households trying to stabilise their household incomes and health. Secure employment for low-skilled individuals has become difficult to come by and the demand is ever increasing. We have many residents who are struggling with the long-term effects of Covid-19 and its impact on their mental wellbeing. Another key issue for local people has been access to healthcare services. Changes in the NHS system and the digitalisation of all services have put many people at a disadvantage when trying to access help. Our young people have faced the challenge of sitting public exams after two years of disrupted schooling, the added pressure of which has led to anxiety and fear among students and their families.



Outcomes at a glance: 2022/23

- Residents have accessed targeted online employment support resulting in tangible progress towards sustainable employment.
- Residents have accessed pre-ESOL support resulting in increased literacy, confidence and independence.
- Young people have engaged in online and face-to-face youth club sessions with access to positive, constructive activities, educational workshops, sport and trips.
- Older people have attended weekly sessions at the centre where staff have been able to support them with issues.
- Vulnerable local residents and families have accessed free food packs.
- Local families with babies have accessed stay-and-play sessions receiving support and guidance on early development.
- Women have participated in online and face-to-face exercise classes and workshops, boosting their confidence and improving their physical health.
- Women have attended digital inclusion sessions and have gained skills to help them and their families overcome digital barriers.
- Households without access to digital devices have received devices to support educational attainment, progress and inclusiveness.
- Young people have gained certified qualifications through online training courses, increasing their employability and confidence.
- Young people have completed work experience and volunteering through the Summer Project gaining confidence, skills and knowledge.
- Young people have become more aware of the risks of knife crime and have developed skills to handle challenging peer-group situations.
- Girls and young women have gained confidence and new skills through workshops and activities.
- There is a greater sense of cohesion within the community, developing positive relationships /-among residents and a stronger sense of belonging to the locality.

*Children and young people have accessed online support with their school work and exam preparation, resulting in higher attainment in public exams.

A year in figures: what we've achieved

Between April 2022 and March 2023:

- **1,645** residents used SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' services
- **521** residents attended a SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' community event
- **534** young people aged 8-19 years engaged with SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets
- **48** adults and young people took part in accredited training
- **80** residents received employment support (of whom 35% gained a job)
- **67** volunteers supported SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, including the Management Committee, young people gaining work experience, and residents of all ages helping at one-off events and regular sessions
- **£440,000** of funding was secured by SocietyLinks to continue delivering projects and services.

Financial statement

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets ended the 2022/23 financial year in a robust financial position with continuing longer-term funding in place and a strong reserve position, as demonstrated by our annual accounts. We have continued our pro-active fundraising strategy – through our strong community connections and responsive planning. We accessed funding for projects in line with the dynamically changing needs of the community while continuing to increase our annual income year on year despite the funding difficulties faced by the entire charity sector during the Covid pandemic and beyond.

We continue to have strong reserves above our reserve policy requirement although we did have a small reduction this year as expected due to some project delivery prior to covid being delayed into the 2022/23 financial year. We have sufficient reserves to maintain a minimum of four months of our existing services in case of a shortfall or delay in income from grants.

Longer-term funding

We have multi-year funding in place for most of our larger projects having successfully applied for further long-term grant funding

Through new funding provided by the City of London we have been able to provide new and existing services to new communities further away from our centre. We have always recognised that long-term funding is key to giving our service users and skilled staff confidence in our service continuity. This has enabled us to build trust and long-term relationships with new and existing users of our services.

The charity funding environment continues to be under great pressure as we continue in a post-Covid world where the lasting cost of the pandemic is continuing to constrain public and private funding for the charity sector. Similarly, the cost-of-living crisis is impacting all sectors of society; it is constraining funding availability while causing the needs of service users to grow rapidly. We already have funding in place for most of our projects in the medium term and we are confident we can access further funding to secure the longer-term provision of our existing services.

Forecast

In 2023/24 funding will continue to be a priority and challenge for SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, as is the case for the entire charity sector, particularly considering the difficulties of the post-Covid funding environment where the costs of the pandemic are still being counted by all sectors of society. Alongside this, the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is continuing to acutely affect our service users who are amongst the hardest hit.

We are confident that given our successful performance, specifically through the pandemic period and the immediate aftermath, funders will feel confident to support us even more despite the tightening funding environment.

We aim to further consolidate our position while continuing our expansion into other community centres and service areas through taking on larger-scale and longer-term projects. Our financial aim for 2023/24 is to secure larger, multi-year grants of between £80,000 and £200,000 across three-year funding periods to finance our long-term projects and to give the organisation longer-term stability and consistent growth.

Community services

Job club

This year we were fortunate to have the funding for our job club extended by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH). This meant we could work with more people, which was especially valuable at a time when people were struggling financially and looking for second jobs or experiencing added pressure from job centres putting more stringent demands on claimants. Many people had been made redundant and were desperate to get back into work. We were able to provide help with writing CVs and personal statements, interview practice, sending people to job fairs, and supplying volunteering opportunities for people looking for work experience. People struggling with their English language skills were referred to our ESOL classes. We enrolled more than 30 people in childcare training and many of them now are in employment.



Better Jobs

Better Jobs has been a very productive project, not only offering support to people looking to improve their employment but also providing training. The budget is generous so we have been able to offer training around first aid and individual tailored training courses that have helped improve people's skills and raised their prospects of finding a better job. Furthermore, Trust for London offered extra uplift money which enabled us to provide extra resources and offer refreshments for people who were struggling to afford meals. This 'warm hub' approach encouraged service users to spend more time at the centre, where they had access to free WiFi and heat during the winter months, and could continue looking for work.

Digital Divide

This year we continued to provide a digital support service because we recognised the need to address the digital divide and support people to overcome the barriers they face on a daily basis due to their lack of computing and technology skills. Our sessions provided basic support such as setting up an email account, writing and responding to emails, setting up passwords, searching the internet for retail purposes and completing online forms. We also provided access to IT training courses that could be completed online.

We continued to work with ELBA and distributed more digital devices to households where several children were sharing one device to improve access to school work.

Exercise and fitness

We ran several yoga programmes this year because there had been an increase in demand; we provided online and in-person classes. This hybrid delivery was very popular among local women who generally struggle to find time to join a class at the gym or lack the confidence to go to a health centre due to language barriers and unfamiliarity with the settings.

Insanity Fitness was held on a Tuesday evening at the centre. The sessions were aimed particularly at men, offering cardio and strength sessions to improve fitness and strengthen inner core muscles, as well as to provide an opportunity for local men to socialize and talk about healthy lifestyles with people with similar goals. Local men had been reporting a high number of diagnoses of high cholesterol and diabetes, so these sessions were introduced to help reduce the causes of this through activity and increased physical fitness.



Fisher Foods

This year, due to the rising costs of living, we adapted our food co-operative service to become a food distribution programme. We were supported by LBTH and the Felix Project with deliveries of food items as well as household, hygiene and cleaning products. We reached approximately 120 households through the project, ranging from families that are vulnerable due to being a single-parent family, illness, loss of income or mobility issues.

Families gave highly positive feedback, making comments like “food items such as cereals and fresh vegetables have been a lifeline”. They also commented that the household items such as personal hygiene products would last them a few weeks and that one collection of items would last them a while.

-Due to the sheer demand and unpredictability of the deliveries we also secured further funding to enable us to buy basic food items such as chickpeas, sugar, cooking oil and onions to enrich the food packs.



London & Quadrant (L&Q) women's and older people's sessions

We were funded to run a women's session and an older people's group in the Swedenborg Park area. The sessions aimed to tackle isolation and loneliness and help individuals engage in the community. The sessions were very popular and with games and refreshments on hand the sessions became part of attendees' weekly diary. Older people enjoyed playing games together such as bingo and card games, while the women enjoyed activities such as arts and crafts. The women's group also supported the older people's session as volunteers, providing conversation and company to the older attendees.

Queen's Jubilee

This year saw the late Queen Elizabeth II celebrate her Jubilee and SocietyLinks joined the celebrations with a street party for our local community. We had a BBQ serving burgers, cold drinks and a humungous cake to top it all off. We even had a surprise visit from a special guest who posed for photos with everyone. Our younger community members were kept busy with the bouncy castle and craft tables and everyone also got to plant seeds to take home and grow themselves. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and was a show of great community spirit.



Global Make Some Noise

SocietyLinks made an appeal to Global Make Some Noise as part of their funding application process to support our service users through the rising cost of living with a budget cooking programme, budgeting skills course and pre-ESOL and literacy support, having identified these issues as barriers for people facing food poverty. Our project was chosen as one of the finalists and we were asked to go and support the fundraising campaign live on radio from Leicester Square. Our team and youth volunteers appeared on the Capital Radio Xtra Breakfast Show and on LBC radio with Nick Ferrari. The experience was amazing for the whole team and our efforts helped to raise funds that then led to our project being successfully granted funding for a two-year programme. We look forward to starting this exciting and innovative new project in the coming year.



Family seaside trips

This summer we organised three coach trips to the seaside for local families. We visited Margate, Brighton and Clacton beaches where families were able to enjoy the sand and sea and have picnics on the coast. These trips were hugely popular and gave families who otherwise would not have been able to take their children away during the holidays a chance to have an enjoyable day trip out of London.

City of London Afghan Resettlement Programme

SocietyLinks was approached by the City of London Corporation with a proposition to support newly arrived Afghan refugees who were settling into a bridging hotel. The initial proposition was to provide play services for the young people and children. We accepted the challenge.

Delivery began with basic play sessions with toys and activities for under 5s and parents where staff built up a positive rapport with families and observed cultural and social aspects of their parenting. Staff then organised to take them out on walks in the local area with their families, building their confidence, helping them to meet people, taking them to markets and mosques, and showing them the general etiquettes of daily living in the UK.

We slowly expanded our delivery to provide after-school clubs and activities for 8-13 year olds and 13-19 year olds. The young people enjoyed study support, playing games and most of all doing arts and crafts activities.

It was originally intended as a short-term project, but because the demand was high and the City of London recognised our success, we were given further contracts to extend the programme to provide Saturday clubs, more study support sessions and more after-school clubs and holiday programmes.

We worked with approximately 150 children over the year and facilitated opportunities for them to experience new things and introduced them to life in the UK through the provision of seaside trips during the summer, arts and crafts projects, local trips to parks and heritage sites, bowling, cinema, BBQ parties and Jubilee parties.

The programme presented some unique challenges: firstly, there was the language barrier. Luckily multiple members of our team were able to communicate with them in Urdu, which the refugees found very comforting and reassuring. Newly arrived and having been through war and traumatic events, it was a difficult time for the refugees – and for our staff team; there was a lot of emotion to be dealt with and faced. Our staff, some of whom were able to relate to the Afghans being refugees themselves, used their experience, knowledge and passion to help these families and offer them the best possible service.

The City of London Corporation has praised SocietyLinks for our efforts and the standard of service delivery portrayed during this programme.



Training Hub

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets has built a partnership with training providers London Learning Consortium (LLC) to deliver courses such as ESOL and Childcare for our local residents from the centre. Two cohorts finished their course this year and subsequently found employment or embarked on further training.

Pre-ESOL

Our pre-ESOL sessions have been in high demand and we continued to run these sessions this year after securing some funding. We had a waiting list for spaces and had two cohorts undertaking the course consecutively. The sessions have had amazing outcomes including seeing progression onto ESOL, confidence in speaking, enabling independence and communication, and the gaining of first literacy skills for many individuals.



Staff training

We continue to develop our staff through training opportunities and workshops. All staff are given mandatory training in health and safety, first aid, fire safety and safeguarding. These are further developed through extended training courses to supplement roles and projects such as training in Autism awareness, dealing with difficult behaviour, Prevent and radicalisation, and mental health awareness.

The capacity-building fund from the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) enabled further development of the staff team. Four members of lead staff have completed Prince 2 training, which has equipped them with extensive knowledge and skills in project management and is an internationally recognised qualification. Four staff members will undertake counselling training funded by CAF next year.

All staff also shared opportunities to attend seminars and workshops provided by external organisations such as CAF, London Youth and the London Community Foundation. Some of these are exclusive events for grant holders and give great insight into organisational capacity building, developing skills to enable productivity and further project ideas.



Women's Services

Girls Group

Our Girls Group was relaunched this year after being closed during the pandemic. The sessions had always been very popular before the pandemic and demand for the sessions to resume was very high. The sessions started off in the community garden where the girls took part in planting activities as well as arts and crafts and workshops. With the arrival of the colder weather the sessions moved indoors and activities included cooking healthy snacks.

The sessions attract approximately 30 attendees aged 8-18 years each week. The popularity of the sessions demonstrates the need in the community and the importance of providing female-only spaces for young women to be able to express themselves openly without the fear of judgement or embarrassment. The sessions helped facilitate peer mentoring and support with the senior girls taking on responsibility for the younger girls.

This project is a core service and has continued to run successfully for many years now. Due to its success we have developed a similar programme in the City of London, which is also proving to be very popular.



Commit 2 Being Fit

This programme was a girls-only project devised from previous pilot programmes using Fitbits to engage young people and encourage increased physical activity. The aim of the programme was to encourage young girls to actively engage in physical activity to help improve their stamina, increase their physical fitness, and support their mental wellbeing through stress release and the feel-good factor of completing targets. The project provided participants with a FitBit which was monitored through an app by youth workers. The participants competed with others on scoreboards and achieved personal milestones through increasing their daily steps and activity.

Participants attended weekly workshops on health and wellbeing-related topics such as anxiety, healthy eating, exercise routines and relaxation techniques. They also participated in an exercise session with a trained tutor who delivered an array of exercise methods including intense cardio workouts, yoga and stretching, Zumba and dance.

The app also helps young women to monitor their menstrual cycles and the changes that this causes within their bodies and to their energy levels. All this led to participants having a better understanding of their bodies, feeling confident and proud of their bodies, and being able to look after themselves better.



E-safety

Our ever-popular women's e-safety session continued to run every Thursday with support from the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) who joined each week and delivered workshops and discussions on different issues around safety in the local area.

Women were able to ask questions and talk about their concerns or things that they had heard of happening locally. Rumours lead to fear and misconceptions among residents and the sessions with SNT helped to dismantle these with facts and case studies.

Our attendees have made great progress in understanding the importance of online safety, recognising and identifying scams and fraud, and also being better equipped to deal with online-related issues concerning their children. The women discussed online grooming, Prevent and radicalisation, bullying and body shaming, sexting and online relationships.

The service users celebrated International Women's Day with a tea party and participated in competitions and quizzes, all related to women's health and female role models. The event was attended by more than 40 women of different ages, backgrounds and faiths.



Sewing

We ran a weekly sewing session where residents were encouraged to repair and repurpose damaged or old clothing, as well as make use of scrap fabrics to creating new items of clothing. Parents enjoyed reusing items of clothing and renewing them skilfully to use again for their children, such as shortening old trousers to be worn as shorts during the summer, t-shirts and dresses being renewed with some added hemming, ribbon or buttons to add detail, and scraps being used to make hairbands and small items for children.

The service users learnt skills such as cutting to measurement, using patterns, hemming and overlocking using a machine, using the correct settings on a sewing machine and installing bobbins and threads accurately.



International Women's Day

This year International Women's Day focused on inequalities and health issues that affect women in our society. The event offered games, quizzes, competitions and lots of homemade food that everyone brought to share.

Youth services

Youth club

We continued running our youth club this year with twice weekly sessions with activities such as pool, Play Station, arts and crafts, science projects and workshops. The local young people enjoyed having a safe space where they could relax and socialise while also having access to qualified youth workers. The youth team ran workshops based on relevant topics that were affecting the young people and made referrals to external organisations and services where needed.

The sessions were popular among the 10-16 year olds because they were able to enjoy activities independently with peers. The sessions helped to combat isolation among this age group out of school hours. Parents have reported feeling comfortable with their teenagers attending our sessions because they felt they were safe and well supervised. “The staff are friendly and understand my children and help them to do better things that’s why I like them to come here.” (Parent of young people aged 12 years and 15 years who attend youth club)



City of London youth services

This year for the first time we secured a three-year contract, with a possible two-year extension, with the City of London to deliver universal play services. So far we have been delivering one outreach session per week and two centre-based sessions in Golden Lane and Portsoken for two age groups of young people. We have also been delivering a girls group, which has been very popular and takes place late afternoon on Fridays. Our programme is based on themes that are relevant to young people such as substance misuse, body confidence and image, social media, and other national and international themes such as Black History Month, global warming and the environment, and current affairs.

Taekwondo

Our taekwondo sessions continued to be a highly accessible and successful project, with young people achieving gradings and gaining confidence within themselves through structured workshops and personal development. The sessions were facilitated by youth workers and trained taekwondo masters giving all-round support to the young people. The past year saw new attendees join including females and young people with SEND. Older attendees have taken on peer support roles within the session to build their skills and personal development.



Saturday Sports

This programme ran in the park on Saturday mornings to give younger children aged 8-12 access to youth worker-led sports activities. Children were supported with access to qualified youth workers while also improving their health and fitness through active participation. They played a variety of sports including football, cricket and basketball. The attendees were able to learn new skills, practice their skills and socialised with peers.

Study support

This year we delivered study support to children and young people at various stages of their education to make this popular service more accessible and more beneficial. One session each week was aimed at children aged 8-12 years and was run by two qualified teachers with supporting staff. The session provided worksheets and tasks if the children did not have any homework of their own to complete. The second session was aimed at 14-16 year olds preparing for GCSE maths who were deemed to be borderline students at risk of not meeting expected grades. This group was more concentrated and focused and was run by our maths tutor. Thirdly, we ran an online maths tuition service for those who could not attend in person and these sessions were aimed at 15-18 year olds preparing for GCSE or A-Level maths. The sessions were delivered one to one or in pairs and gave the students focused teaching time. The programme ran on a rotation basis to allow new students to join and achieve maximum reach. "I have actually learnt the stuff during the tuition sessions which I didn't understand at school. I don't know what I would have done without these sessions." (16-year-old student attending maths tuition at the centre)



Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme

This year we continued to deliver HAF programmes during the holidays, providing a minimum of four hours per day of service delivery, including lunch and activities such as Play Station, football, table tennis, pool, cricket, hockey, arts and crafts (very popular), nature and clay projects and competitions for writing poetry. The programme also gave children and young people access to qualified youth workers who they could approach if they needed support. The programme provided a safety net for vulnerable children during the school holidays, providing children with a free meal and activities under the supervision of youth workers.



Stay-and-play sessions

After carrying out a consultation, it came to our attention that there was a demand from parents with children under 5 for a service that helped with social interaction and integration. Many stated that they had become isolated during the Covid-19 lockdowns and that it had affected their children's and their own social life. Furthermore, local children's centres did not have capacity to provide services for everyone which left many parents with nowhere to go. We launched our stay-and-play sessions early in the year and were immediately inundated with requests for places.



Our lead play worker is an expert in play services and has over 30 years' experience working with newborns and young children up to the age of five. She was not only able to set up an excellent session for the babies, but provided talks about child development to inform and reassure parents. The sessions have been really popular and diverse with multicultural service users in both the SocietyLinks Centre and in Raine's House. We have received a lot of good feedback and praise from parents saying the sessions have improved their mental health and confidence, and have given their children a chance to mix with other babies their age. Some mentioned how impressed they were with the development resources that were cleverly used in our sessions, such as sand, water, dressing-up clothes, the play corner, books, role play equipment, and musical instruments.

Science Week

One of our staff members worked in partnership with the Science Museum through a Science Week initiative that saw lots of experiments and interesting things happening in our centre. We set up an aquaponics system where we are growing herbs on the top of our fish tanks and our youth club participants carried out lots of amazing experiments too.



Summer 2022

Summer was a very busy time for SocietyLinks. We ran summer projects in the City of London for Afghan refugees, as well as locally for Tower Hamlets residents. Through these projects we reached hundreds of children. We offered seaside trips, local excursions to the bowling alley and cinema, and healthy lifestyle programmes including sport and education around being active and maintaining a healthy diet. We ran a Fitbit programme where young people registered for their own Fitbit and participated in a challenge board and learnt the best ways to stay fit and active. We also provided refreshments because this had been identified as a key need.



Rainbow Links

Rainbow Links continued to run online, offering training and workshops for parents of children with SEND needs. They completed a round of Elklan speech and language training and are planning on further development courses for the parents and carers. SocietyLinks was also able to set up a stay-and-play session for children with special educational needs this year. This session caters for children who are struggling with neurological development, providing access to a safe environment where their habits and behaviours are accepted. They are able to play with toys and crafts with guidance from experienced qualified workers. The staff to service user ratio is very high in this session so parents are very comfortable coming to our session to get the support they need.

Christmas

Christmas 2022 was celebrated with Santa Claus handing out presents to all our young service users, thanks to kind donations from ELBA and the Christmas Toy Appeal. The event was filled with fun and festivities including hot dogs fresh off the grill, popcorn and snacks, as well as competitions and games. The local community were able to congregate and enjoy the festivities, as well as singing and dancing along to Christmas carols.



Staff, Management Committee and volunteers 2022/23

Staff

Project Manager: Joyce Archbold
Office Manager: Rahima Khanom
Finance Officer: Nozmul Hussain
Finance Assistant: Mohsin Amin

Youth Work Manager: Natasha Freya
Youth Work Lead: Joynul Ahmed
Youth Worker Lead: Syed Ahmed
Tutor: Rizia Begum
Tutor: Heather Smith
Project Worker: Bulirun Nessa
Project Worker: Rita Rahman
Admin Assistant: Tahsyn Habib
Admin Assistant: Ruksana Begum
Admin Assistant: Nusrat Begum
Youth Worker: Farhana Kadir
Youth Worker: Betina Wembo
Youth worker: Hasina Begum
Youth Worker: Shahana Nasrin
Youth Worker: Sultana Begum
Youth Worker: Samad Hussain
Youth Worker: Jahangir Rahman
Youth Worker: Rashel Haque
Youth Worker: Angie Brown
Project Worker: Shanaz Begum
Project Worker: Mahfuza Bhanu
Project Worker: Nahid Ahmed
Project Worker: Madihah Khan
Project Worker: Nabiha Habib
Project Worker: Aneesah Rashid
Play Work Lead: Pipeta O'Brien
Admin Apprentice: Mahera Yasmin

Management Committee

Chair: Sharon Barbour
Treasurer: Alex Kind
Secretary: Abdul Hoque Habib (resigned)
Committee Member: Swapna Uddin
Committee Member: Nicole Quotromini
Committee Member: Zamanur Shah
Committee Member: Emdad Hussain
Committee Member: Salma Shah
Committee Member: Mazharul Islam
Committee Member: Jim Ford
Committee Member: Renu Sen

Volunteers

Ian Roberts
Shozwana Begum
Asma Begum
Nazreen Khan
Samid Ahmed
Jasiyah Khan
Ayesha Gulzar
Ambia Begum
Shana Khatum
Ruby Miah
Abdur Rouf
Jannat Ahmed
Riaz Miah
Mariam Ali

Accountant

Earl and Grey Accountants: Razaul Kabir

Partners and funders

Partners

Peabody Housing Association
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower Hamlets Homes
East End Homes
Pollyanna Theatre School
Linkage Plus
ELBA
Prevista Training
London Training Centre
Jobcente Plus
Savage Words
Wapping Youth FC
Ocean Youth Connections
Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership
Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
Community Food Enterprise
Team DJB Taekwondo
Island House
St Mary's Church
Sundial Centre
Swedenborg Society
British Science association (BSA)
London Learning Consortium
JTP Architects

Current funders

City of London
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower Hill Trust
Wakefield Trust
Peabody
BBC Children in Need
Awards for All – National Lottery
London Community Foundation
East End Community Foundation
ELBA
Tower Hamlets Homes
London & Quadrant (L&Q)
Souter Charitable Trust
Young Londoner Fund (GLA)
Seven Stars Foundation
British Science Association (BSA)
Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)
Derwent
Sheldon Trust
London Catalyst
The Charles French Charitable Trust
Percy Bilton
William Wates Memorial Trust
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust
Co-op Grant
Ashworth Charitable Trust
Canary Wharf Trust
Johnnie Johnson Trust
People's Health Trust
Trust For London
British Science Association
Canary wharf Trust
EMD UK Together Fund
Howden Group Service
The True Colours Trust
The Hargreaves Foundation

Reg No. 07750061
Charity Reg No: 1154824

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Financial statements for the year ended
31 March 2023

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

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SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Name of Organisation: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Correspondence Address: The Whitechapel Centre
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX

Tel: 020 7702 0901

Chairperson: Sharon Barbour

Treasurer: Alex Kind

MC Members: James Ford
Nicole Quotromini
Zamanur Shah
Emdad Hussain
Mazharul Islam
Salma Shah
Swapna Uddin
Renu Sen

Independent Examiner: Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Banker: Natwest Plc
Plaistow Branch
386 Barking Road
London
E13 8JB

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees/Management Committee for the year ended 31st March 2023

The financial statements laid out in this report on page 3 to 5 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in March, 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and that you consider the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, this act does not apply. It is our responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 43(3) (a) of the 1993 Act. Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and;

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with general direction given by the Charity's Commissioner. The examination includes:

- A review of the accounting records kept by the Charity.
- A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- It includes consideration of any unusual items if disclosures in the accounts.

Finally, making explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters relating to the accounts. The examination also includes examination of any such matters of evidence relevant to the account of disclosures in the financial statements. It includes assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which in our opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial statement as prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31st March 2023 and that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.


Razaul Kabir ACCA/IFA/MIPA
Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Date: 11th October 2023

SOCIETY LINKS**Income and Expense**

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

Income	£	£
City of London	210,815	
LBTH - Local Community Fund	18,720	
LBTH - Summer HAF	24,800	
LBTH - Christmas HAF	9,560	
LBTH - Easter HAF	1,668	
Charity Aid Foundation (CAF)	30,027	
The True Colours Trust	6,890	
Education & Skills	1,500	
The Hargreaves Foundation	16,000	
Johnnie Johnson Trust	5,000	
EMD UK Together Fund	7,335	
L&Q Placemakers	5,000	
Souter Charitable Trust	2,944	
Greater London Authority (GLA) - Young Londoner Fund	4,500	
Seven Stars Foundation	200	
British Science Association (BSA)	1,000	
William Wates Memorial Trust	9,757	
People's Health Trust	9,861	
Trust For London	15,000	
East End Community Foundation (EECF)	10,808	
Derwent	5,760	
East London Business Alliance (ELBA)	4,000	
The Charles S French Charitable Trust	2,500	
The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	4,940	
Peabody	5,000	
London Learning Consortium (LLC)	21,825	
Howden Group Service	500	
Canary Wharf Trust	3,000	
CO-op Grant	1,003	
Donations	1,042	
Hall hire	265	
Total Income		441,220

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

		31.03.23		31.03.22
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Previous year
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grants:				
All Grants	-	339,913	339,913	330,499
Contracts	-	100,000	-	50,986
JRS (Furlough)	-	-	-	13,656
	0	439,913	439,913	395,141
Other income:				
Rental income	265		-	-
Donations	1,042			
Total incoming resources	1,307	439,913	441,220	395,141
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Operating costs:				
Admin, Finance & Proj Mang		92,216		90,036
Project Staff		248,330		103,948
				-
Equipment, Trips & Project Costs		62,143		61,646
Rent		14,228		-
Premises Cost				
Cleaning		-		-
Administrative Expenses				
Subscriptions		150		125
Training		11,262		4,545
Fund Raising & Publicity	2,870	-		14,560
Insurance		1,013		1,136
Tel & Internet		420		452
Pension		5,374		5,977
		18,219		26,795
Financial Expenses				
Bank Charges	342			24
Governance costs				
Accountancy	3,315			1,317
Legal & Other Professional	3,344			
Total resources expended	9,871	435,136	445,007	283,766
Net income	(8,564)	4,777	(3,787)	111,375

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Balance Sheet

At 31 March 2023

			31.03.23	31.03.22
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank	117,470	43,794	161,264	224,673
Debtors		51,475	51,475	
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year		(7,837)	(7,837)	(15,985)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	117,470	87,432	204,902	208,688
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	117,470	87,432	204,902	208,688
NET ASSETS	117,470	87,432	204,902	208,688
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			117,470	126,034
Restricted funds			87,432	82,654
TOTAL FUNDS			204,902	208,688

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Management Committee Report

Registered Name & Address: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, 80 John Fisher Street, London, E1 8JX
Registered Charity Number: 1154824
Registered Company Number: 7750061

Public Benefits Statement

Introduction

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets as a registered charity is committed to compliance and transparency; it strives to demonstrate its benefit for the local residents and wider community. This statement identifies and sets out the aims, purpose, mission and public benefit that the charity provides.

Our Aims and Objectives

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a community-based charity providing opportunities and activities to address the needs of underprivileged people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs

Through small, targeted projects it empowers people to make significant lifestyle and social changes, and to achieve long-term improvements to their quality of life and that of their families. The activities focus on education and training, unemployment, social exclusion, equality and diversity, and improving the life chances of local people. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works towards its vision of being a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and introducing innovative, new projects to meet the increasing needs of the local population. SocietyLinks aims to build strong partnerships with other organisations to maximize our efficiency and output. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets envisages being able to deliver services across the borough from different venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs within London.

Charitable Purpose and Mission

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' mission is to create opportunities and activities to address the needs of residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social change through creating practical projects. The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are General Charitable Purposes:

- (i) To promote the advancement of education, training, employment and enterprise support for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- (ii) To promote and organise educational and social development of young people who are socially excluded and disengaged from their aspirations.
- (iii) To provide a voice for an under represented generation.
- (iv) To promote equality and tackle exclusion.
- (v) To create opportunities and activities to address the significant needs of deprived and underprivileged residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social changes to improve the quality of life for those living and working in Tower Hamlets.

Beneficiaries

The overall objective of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is to build the capacity of residents on the local estates in Tower Hamlets and create a stronger, more vibrant community that all residents feel a part of and have a sense of ownership towards. We want to help individuals take part in activities, engage in training and work, and grasp opportunities with confidence. We have separate objectives for the different groups that we work with, and we aim to build networks within and between these groups, to create a supportive environment that will sustain personal development for residents.

Public Benefit

The beneficial impact of the work that SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets delivers is demonstrated through the outcomes achieved by these following, tailored projects:

- Youth Services (ages 8-18) minimum 1500 individuals registered as contacts across Tower Hamlets and City of London.
- Study Support (ages 12- 18) & Homework Club (ages 6-11) at least 250 individual children and young people have accessed the services
- Girls' Group (ages 8- 18) 175 girls and young women have attended at least one session
- Tunes Against Knives (ages 10- 18) approximately 210 young people have contributed to the program through attendance in workshops and production of music.
- Sports Sessions (ages 11-18) minimum of 215 young people have attended sports sessions such as football and multi-sports in the park.
- Exercise (women 18+) (Men 18+) 70 individuals have accessed the services for adults across three weekly sessions
- Holiday Programmes and activities (ages 5-16) 630 individual children and young people have been provided with lunch during a holiday period across Tower Hamlets and City of London
- Job Club (adults 18+) 155 adults have benefited from employment support
- IT Class (adults 18+) 60 adults have accessed IT support including completing online courses
- E-safety Sessions (women 18+) & Chat and Chai (women 18+) minimum of 70 women have attended the sessions from all ages and backgrounds
- Stay and Play (ages 0-5) approximately 110 families of varying ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds have accessed the service
- Community Events (all ages) on average each event is attended by 300 people and therefore with 5 events over the year we have supported 1500 individuals
- Sewing Class (ages 18+) 65 women have used the sewing sessions
- Autism/ SEND Awareness Group (ages 18+) 45 families and households have attended the SEND workshops or sessions
- Older People's Group (ages 50+) at least 90 individuals aged 50+ attend our services
- Cost of Living Food Distribution (all ages) 300 households have received support from our food distribution
- ESOL/ Pre- ESOL (ages 18+) 80 attendees across the three classes including pre-ESOL
- Digital Divide Campaign (device distribution for 8-18years) 64 devices were donated
- Training, workshops and courses (16+) 90 individuals attended training courses
- Detached Outreach and Referrals (whole community) 400 households reached through door knocking, canvassing and targeted outreach
- Refugee Resettlement Programme (all ages) 130 families supported across two bridging hotels in the City of London

These projects help to:

- Offer opportunities to young people to engage in educational, diversionary and positive activities
- Encourage positive participation in society and community activities
- Develop the employability of job seekers and support advancement of those in work through training and support
- Facilitate the development of community networks to reduce isolation and promote community development
- Create opportunities/ access to resources and support that they may otherwise not have access to
- Support individual/ families specific needs and disadvantages, implement inclusion and enhance their access to services and signpost accordingly
- Equip service users with skills, knowledge and information to empower them to have a voice and confidence to overcome barriers and make positive decisions
- Develop community cohesion and understanding among a diverse and culturally rich community
- Support integration and resettlement for newcomers

The ongoing success and benefit of these services is measured by their popularity and recorded attendance levels and the positive feedback from partners, service users and wider stakeholders reflects the continuous demand for increasing capacity and longevity of projects.

Charity Commission Public Benefit Guidance Compliance

We believe we have complied with our duty to have due regard to the commission's public interest guidance wherever it is relevant to our activities.



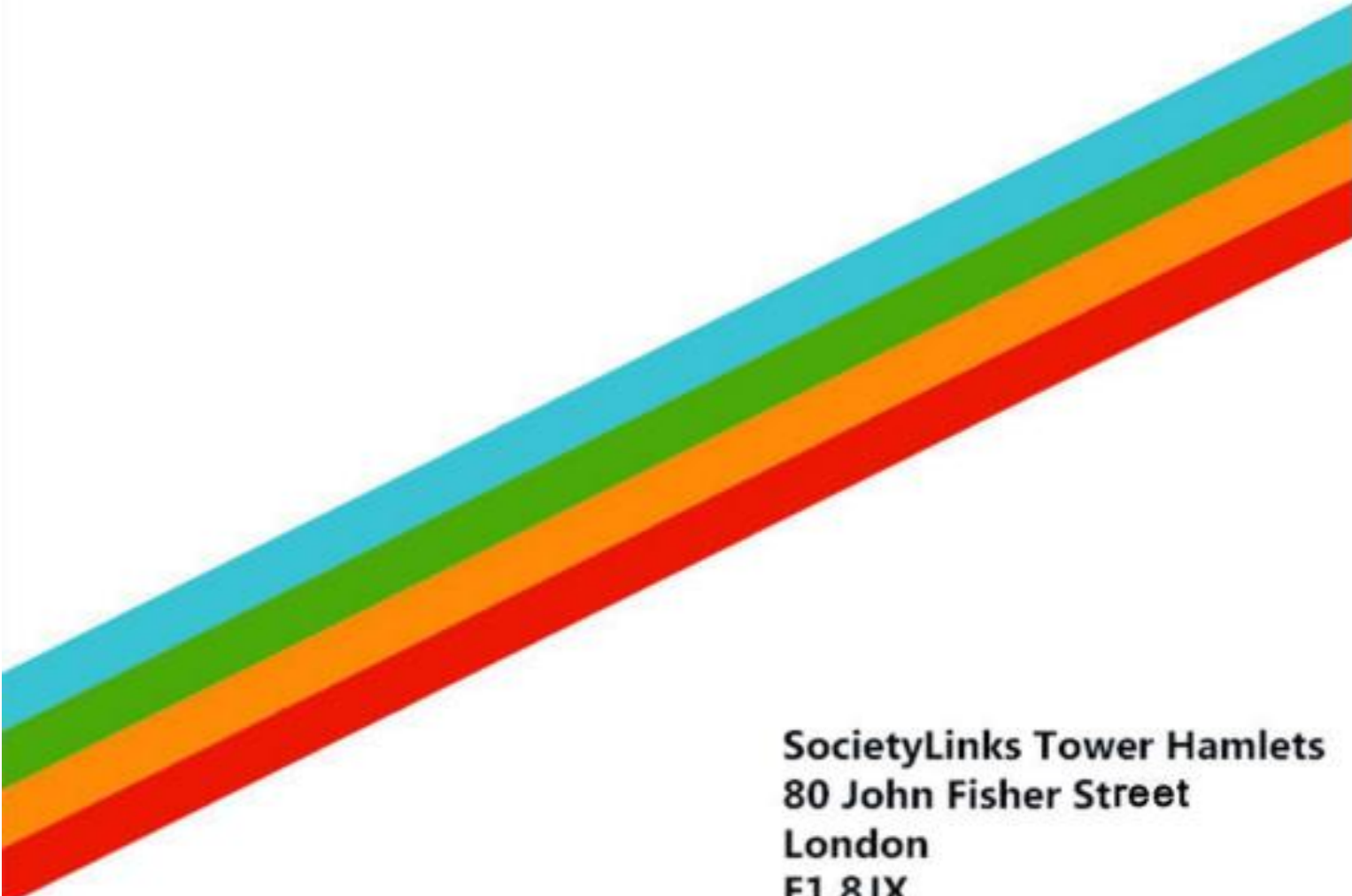
Chairperson



Treasurer

Approved on: 01/11/23

Registered Charity: 1154824
Registered Company: 7750061



SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX
Tel: 0207 702 0901
E: info@societylinks.org.uk
www.societylinks.org.uk

Accounts

Annual Report 2021-2022



SocietyLinks

Tower Hamlets

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Foreword from the Chair

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets on another remarkable year, despite many uncertainties and the threat of Covid still looming over us. The organisation has been extremely resilient during this time weathering the storm and being able to come out on the other side.

I have recently been elected Chair of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, and I accepted graciously, having known and worked with the organisation since it was founded, I know that they have a real desire to work in the community and ensure that everyone has an opportunity to develop and grow. The partnerships and real engagement with the community are very impressive, and must not be taken lightly. To get the whole community together takes, time, patience and dedication.

I look forward to what lies ahead in the next year, the continued commitment to serving in the community and receiving new faces onto the committee, who I am sure will bring new ideas.

Working with the Project Manager, Joyce, is a pleasure: her dedication and enthusiasm really do make SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets what it is.

Sharon Barbour



Project Manager's Report

The year 2021/22 has been a very exciting time for SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets. We have focused heavily on new funding streams and stabilising our core services as well as recovering from the pandemic. We have been very successful in securing funding for new projects as well as continuing current ones.

One of our main focuses this year has been on improving health, be it physical, mental or social wellbeing, with projects for all ages focusing on creating opportunities and spaces for individuals to speak to, spend time with, and socialise with others. This helped to tackle the rising issues of isolation and loneliness as well as conditions related to unhealthy lifestyles.

It has been wonderful to see the building buzzing with people again and I hope that this will continue with our ongoing perseverance to deliver as many services as possible to meet the needs of all our service users. We look forward to expanding our services especially into the City of London with our newly awarded youth contract which will launch in April spreading SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' reach across boroughs. Finally, I hope to see the service and the community continue with their resistance and recovery post Covid-19.

Joyce Archbold



About SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a vibrant community-based charity located in a community building on the Whitechapel Peabody Estate. Our mission is to address the needs of underprivileged local residents through creating opportunities and providing practical support. Our projects and services aim to empower local people to achieve tangible, positive change in their lives and those of their families. Our vision is to be a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and developing innovative, new projects to meet the changing needs of the local population. We aim to engage with local residents and build their confidence, capacity and wellbeing. We want to show them the wealth of opportunities around them and how they can connect with these. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works in partnership with other organisations to maximise our efficiency and output. We deliver services across the borough from a variety of venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs.

Core values

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets actively challenges discrimination and welcomes residents from all sections of the community regardless of their race, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, and political and cultural beliefs.

The core values of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets are as follows:

1. We value the residents of Tower Hamlets as an ethnically diverse community with rich experiences and high human potential.
2. We aim to support residents to:
 - a) Help them, one another, to live more fulfilling lives by securing better futures
 - b) Live healthy lives in a safe and comfortable environment
 - c) Participate in the life of the community
 - d) Take part in education, training, and recreation opportunities
 - e) Secure decent housing, employment, and an adequate income.
3. We endeavour:
 - a) To be accountable and responsive to residents.
 - b) To be flexible and innovative in the delivery of quality services.
 - c) To work in partnership with other agencies whenever possible and appropriate.
 - d) To oppose discrimination on grounds of race, religion, gender, age, sexuality and disability.



A brief history of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets was established in 2010. Its founders were passionate about offering opportunities to disadvantaged people in the local community to help support them to achieve better outcomes for themselves. The service began with the delivery of youth services and English classes for beginners and was run wholly through the time and efforts of dedicated volunteers. This enabled SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets to develop a foundation within the community and start applying for funding to increase its services and deliver other projects to meet the needs of the service users. Over the years the services have developed according to the needs of the locals and SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is now a firm pillar in the local community.



Legal status

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee. The management constitutes two directors and a Management Committee made up of 11 members with an appointed chairperson, secretary and treasurer. A list of all Management Committee members can be found at the end of this report.

Constitution

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' constitution sets out the following objectives:

1. To advance education and training for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets
2. To reduce unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit
3. To promote social inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society
4. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by, for example:
 - a) Eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion
 - b) Advancing education and raising awareness of equality and diversity
 - c) Promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds
 - d) Conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public
 - e) Cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.
5. To advance in life and relieve the needs of young people through the provision of:
 - a) Recreational and leisure activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life
 - b) Support and activities to develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
6. Such other charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales as the trustees may from time to time determine

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets in 2021-22

The past year has seen the return of face-to-face services and delivery. We re-opened our doors to the community and welcomed back our very keen service users.

Locals were excited about what they could get involved in and were happy to regain some normality and routine into their lives. We have maintained some online services simply because of their success and wider reach, for example, our employment service continues to offer online support, as does our women's health and fitness session, which is live streamed for those who want to join from the comfort of their own homes.

We have a number of new funders this year, including, CAF, People's Health Trust, William Wates, and Voice4Change, who have supported various new ventures and projects.

Key issues

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works closely with the community and gains in-depth understanding and insight into the needs and difficulties faced by local residents. The community is still reeling from the after-effects of the pandemic with many households still trying to stabilise their household incomes and health.



Secure employment for low-skilled individuals has become difficult to come by and the demand is ever increasing. We have many residents who are struggling with long Covid and its effects on their mental wellbeing. Another key issue has been getting access to healthcare services; changes in the NHS system and the digitalisation of all services has led to many being at a disadvantage when needing help. Our young people have faced the prospect of sitting exams after two years of disrupted schooling; the added pressure of this has led to anxiety and fear among students and their families.

Who we work with

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works with all ages. This year we had contact with the following groups:

- 816 children and young people from low-income households
- 620 young people at risk of disengagement from positive services
- 86 unemployed residents
- 42 women facing barriers to digital exclusion and social inclusion
- 57 older people at risk of isolation.



Outcomes at a glance: 2021/22

- Residents have accessed targeted online employment support resulting in tangible progress towards sustainable employment.
- Young people have engaged in online and face-to-face youth club sessions with access to positive, constructive activities, educational workshops, sports and trips.
- Older people have attended weekly sessions at the centre where staff have been able to support them with issues.
- Vulnerable local residents and families have accessed free food packs.
- Local families with babies have accessed support packs.
- Women have participated in online and face-to-face exercise classes and workshops, boosting their confidence and improving their physical health.
- Women have attended digital inclusion sessions and have gained skills to help them and their families overcome digital barriers
- Households without access to digital devices have received devices to support educational attainment, progress and inclusiveness.
- Young people have gained certified qualifications through online training courses, increasing their employability and confidence.
- Young people have completed work experience and volunteering through the Summer Project gaining confidence, skills and knowledge.

- Young people have become more aware of the risks of knife crime and have developed skills to handle challenging peer-group situations.
- Girls and young women have gained confidence and new skills through workshops and activities.
- There is a greater sense of cohesion within the community, developing positive relationships among residents and a stronger sense of belonging to the locality.
- Children and young people have accessed online support with their school work and exam preparation, resulting in higher attainment in public exams.

A year in figures: what we've achieved

Between April 2021 and March 2022:

- **1,875** residents used SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' services
- **475** residents attended a SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' community event
- **816** young people aged 8-19 years engaged with SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets
- **65** adults and young people took part in accredited training, in areas such as first aid, food safety, health and safety, customer service and ASDAN awards
- **86** residents received employment support (of whom 35% gained a job)
- **88** volunteers supported SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, including the Management Committee, young people gaining work experience, and residents of all ages helping at one-off events and regular sessions
- **£395,141** of funding was secured by SocietyLinks to continue delivering projects and services.



Financial statement

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets ended the 2021/22 financial year in a robust financial position with new longer-term funding in place and a stronger reserve position, as demonstrated by our annual accounts.

We have continued our pro-active fundraising strategy – through our strong community connections and responsive planning we access funding for projects in line with the dynamically changing needs of the community continued to increasing our annual income year on year despite the funding difficulties faced by the entire charity sector during the Covid pandemic and beyond.

We have increased the size of our reserves in line with our increased operating costs due to running more projects; we have sufficient reserves to maintain a minimum of four months of our existing services in case of a shortfall or delay in income from grants.

Longer-term funding

We have multi-year funding in place for most of our larger projects having successfully applied for long-term grants to financially secure our existing large projects and to start more large projects, which has led us to provide new and existing services to new communities further away from our centre. We have always recognised that long-term funding is key to giving our service users and skilled staff confidence in our service continuity. This has enabled us to build trust and long-term relationships with new and existing users of our services.

The charity funding environment continues to be under great pressure as we move towards a post-Covid world where the lasting cost of the pandemic is continuing to constrain public and private funding for the charity sector. Similarly, the cost-of-living crisis is impacting all sectors of society; it is constraining funding availability while causing the needs of service users to grow rapidly. We already have funding in place for most of our projects in the medium term and we are confident we can access further funding to secure the longer-term provision of our existing services.

Forecast

In 2022/23 funding will continue to be a priority and challenge for SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, as is the case for the entire charity sector, particularly considering the difficulties of the post-Covid funding environment where the costs of the pandemic are still being counted by all sectors of society. Alongside this, the impact of the cost-of-living crisis is beginning to acutely affect our service users who are amongst the hardest hit.

We are confident that given our successful performance, specifically through the pandemic period, funders will feel confident to support us even more despite the tightening funding environment.

We aim to further consolidate our position while continuing our expansion into other community centres and service areas through taking on larger-scale and longer-term projects. Our financial aim for 2022/23 is to secure larger, multi-year grants of between £80,000 and £200,000 across three-year funding periods to finance for our long-term projects and to give the organisation longer-term stability and consistent growth.



Community and Volunteering Projects

Digital Divide

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets continued to partner with ELBA on the Digital Divide campaign by facilitating the distribution of devices to families who do not have access to any digital devices at home. In total we have so far distributed more than 100 devices to local families.

Recipient families and young people have reported how huge an impact the devices have made on children's learning because many were otherwise relying on phones to complete homework tasks.

The Digital Divide campaign became highlighted during the pandemic and introduction of remote learning when it became clear that many children and young people missed out on learning due to not having adequate equipment at home.

Corporate volunteers and partners

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets teamed up with Howdens through Big Alliance to purchase and distribute emergency food packs and baby essentials to families who were struggling financially. Volunteers from Howdens gave up their working time to sort and pack the products into distribution packs. They were also joined by the Prince's Trust for one of the sessions. The packs were warmly welcomed and much appreciated by families who shared their concerns over the rising costs of living and loss of incomes due to Covid-19.



We also welcomed a team of volunteers from AXA who participated in The Global Day of Giving by helping to reclaim and renovate our community garden making it user-friendly again. They cleaned, cleared, painted and planted to make the garden look welcoming and attractive, as well as making it safe for sessions with young people.

Scrubs for NHS

We celebrated our wonderful volunteers from the Variety Club who helped to sew hundreds of PPE sets for our local hospitals and health centres in the summer of 2020. They were awarded with certificates to acknowledge their hard work.

Cooking for the homeless

During Ramadan volunteers including staff members cooked hot meals to distribute to the homeless. Each week over 50 containers of hot meals were given to Our Forgotten Neighbours, a charity that supports the homeless and has an open-table session on a weekly basis in a local community hub.

Community Services

Fisher Foods

Fisher Foods has long become a staple in the diaries of locals especially our resident elderly women. The fruit and vegetables co-operative not only allows them to buy fresh produce without needing to travel but also facilitates a meeting place where they are able to congregate and share news and information. The co-op has also been trying exotic produce to meet the needs of customers. This has resulted in individuals trying new products and sharing recipes and tips between different generations and cultures.

Job Club

Our Job Club has continued to be a core service for the local community. The sessions are run by an experienced employment worker who is able to support residents with CV writing, finding job opportunities and the application process. The sessions offer free access to computers and internet for job seekers as well as supporting the navigation and use of job match websites.

The Job Club has seen successes in securing employment within the retail sector, childcare including school-based roles, security and health and social care. It continues also to offer online support via email for those who are not able to attend the sessions.

Accelerate

We also have a new employment programme funded by Trust for London which targets individuals already in work to support them to secure better employment. This includes more hours, permanency, stability, benefits, increased salaries and more fulfilling roles.

Training Hub

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets has built a partnership with training providers London Learning Consortium (LLC) to enable the delivery of courses such as ESOL and Childcare for our local residents from the centre. Sixty individuals have enrolled onto a course with LLC at SocietyLinks since September.

In the summer we celebrated the success of 12 women who qualified as Level 2 early years' practitioners as well as gaining functional skills in Maths and IT.

Pre-ESOL

When assessments were carried out for ESOL it became apparent that many individuals needed more support with basic IT skills and introductory support with the English



language. A pre-ESOL class has been set up and is run by a qualified teacher, which supports those not yet ready to take the ESOL assessment.

Case studies:

Ali was referred to ESOL by the job centre; however, Ali was not ready at all for the assessment because he had no spoken English at all. He told staff that he had never been to school and was completely illiterate.

Abdul received support from our pre-ESOL class and can now name everyday objects, say short sentences and is able to write his name and address, as well as recognising the English alphabet and its sounds.



Elkan speech and language course

As part of the RainbowLinks project, SocietyLinks is also delivering the Elkan course, which supports the understanding of speech and language development and training in children.

Women's Services

Girls Group



Our Girls Group was relaunched this year after being closed during the pandemic. The sessions had always been very popular before the pandemic and demand for the sessions to resume was very high. The sessions started off in the community garden where the girls took part in planting activities as well as arts and crafts and workshops. With the arrival of the colder weather the sessions moved indoors and activities included cooking healthy snacks.

The sessions attract approximately 30 attendees from eight years to 18 years. The popularity of the sessions demonstrates the need in the community and the importance of providing female-only spaces for young women to be able to express themselves openly without the fear of judgement or embarrassment.

E-safety

The e-safety sessions have developed into a women's group where each week a different aspect of safety is discussed. The local SNT officers regularly drop by to deliver small workshops and answer questions.

Popular topics have included meeting people online, children and gaming online, online card fraud and grooming.



International Women's Day

This year International Women's Day was celebrated with a party to which all local women were invited to come and enjoy foods from around the world, enter competitions, make organic lip balms and hand lotions, and learn about women's health topics.

Yoga

Women's yoga and exercise continued to be delivered online as the majority of women preferred to be able to partake from home. Each week there is a focus and the sessions always have a segment for relaxation methods and mental wellbeing.

Swedenborg Gardens

History book

Swedenborg Gardens Then and Now is a book created by SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets and members of the community which looks back at the history of Emmanuel Swedenborg and the impact he had on the area. The book also looks at how the area has changed over the years and contains fun facts and activities to complete in the park. The project was funded by L&Q and was based on an initiative to integrate new residents on blocks surrounding the perimeter of the park into the local community.

Bulb planting

SocietyLinks led on a bulb planting initiative in the park during the spring of 2022. The event saw the planting of 40,000 bulbs with the help of local school children, corporate volunteers from ELBA, London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) council officers and local architect company JTP.



The Swedenborg Partnership

The Swedenborg partnership continues to work hard on improving the park and its usage. Plans for an outdoor gym have been drawn up and are awaiting permission as well the installation of information boards containing historical facts and information about local nature and habitats.



Youth Service

Shadwell

The Shadwell youth club continued to deliver sessions online and via outreach and detached sessions.

Instagram Live

Due to the success of the Cooking Along project we held more cooking sessions based on celebratory themes such as recipes for Eid. We also held make-up tutorials and hair and hijab styling sessions where viewers were able to follow a live demo with a professional Make Up artist. Participating young people also took part in a photography and social media workshop where they visited a photo studio and went behind the scenes of a photo shoot.

Taekwondo

Taekwondo sessions have become increasingly popular since the end of the lockdown. Young people more actively want to participate in physical activities and leisure services. Forty-five students passed their grading and were able to move up a belt thanks to the support of the tutors.



Football

The outdoor football sessions returned and were run by youth workers and a qualified coach. The sessions attracted more than 25 young people who attended the free after-school sessions. Young people were able to learn and try out new skills and tactics whilst meeting new peers and participating in physical activity.

Outreach and Detached work

Our outreach and detached work consists of leafleting, street engagement, and approaching hard-to-reach individuals outdoors in public places.

Summer Project

The 'Revive' Summer Project ran over five weeks of the summer break. It took place in Swedenborg Gardens every weekday between 12pm and 5pm. Each day offered attendees the opportunity to take part in sports activities led by a trained coach, arts and crafts, games, and workshops and enjoy a free packed lunch through the HAF programme.



The summer programme has become a crucial service for local families as it allows for young people to have a safe space to socialise, find support as well as develop new skills. The past two years has seen an increase in the demand for youth programmes during holidays due to the increase in mental health-related

concerns, experience of isolation, and reduction in physical activity undertaken by families since Covid-19.

RainbowLinks



Weekly sessions were also held for families with children with additional needs where relevant activities were offered for children whilst parents and carers were able to meet and discuss issues with other parents in a similar situation.

Nature and Us

SocietyLinks also delivered a Nature and Us programme on behalf of Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemeteries and Parks. This consisted of weekly activities based on a set curriculum designed to engage young people and children through exploration of nature and their surroundings. Activities included bug hunts, nature trails, seed planting, scavenger

hunts and nature-based art competitions. Participants also created a collage mural based on their perception of nature.



Summer Fun Day

All of our summer projects culminated in a huge family fun day which was attended by more than 110 families. Children and young people were able to participate in a sports day competition, and have a go at making their own slime, badges and personalised t-shirt. The event was also attended by partners offering career options and opportunities for training and development.

Trips

As Covid restrictions have eased, young people have been able to again to enjoy trips including to the cinema, bowling, photo studio, and attending a Children in Need concert. These have been refreshing for the young people after not being able to enjoy activities with peers since the first lockdown.



Study Support

Study support sessions have been in high demand and have continued to be delivered online. Many young people and parents have praised the service and commented on how much it has helped.

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF)



This year SocietyLinks was again awarded funding through the LBTH HAF scheme to provide school children with lunches during the holidays. The scheme was introduced to help combat 'holiday hunger', which SocietyLinks has been highlighting and trying to mitigate for many years now. HAF funding enabled 100 children each weekday to receive a free healthy lunch during the summer holidays and another 50 children were supported during the Christmas holidays. The funding also allowed youth workers and play workers to be made available for sessions providing engagement and emotional and social support.



Tunes against Knives

Our knife crime prevention project funded by the Mayor's Young Londoners' Fund came to an end this year. The young people wrote a final song about fear on the streets, which was then performed and recorded by a young person. An animated video was also created by the young people to accompany the track, which was then released on our YouTube channel.

Christmas

Christmas 2021 saw the return of our annual Christmas party, which we held outdoors on the estate. The party was attended by Management Committee members, local families, and Santa Claus himself who sat in his wonderful grotto while it snowed!



The event was filled with fun and festivities including hot dogs fresh off the grill, popcorn, and snacks, as well as competitions and games. Each child who attended the event received gifts which were kindly donated by ELBA through their Christmas Toy Appeal.

The event gave families the opportunity to enjoy each other's company and celebrate as a community, increasing understanding and tolerance.

Staff, Management Committee and volunteers 2021/22

Staff

Project Manager: Joyce Archbold
Office Manager: Rahima Khanom
Finance Officer: Nozmul Hussain
Finance Assistant: Mohsin Amin
Employment Worker: Faizur Miah
Youth Work Manager: Natasha Freya
Youth Work Lead: Joynul Ahmed
Youth Worker Lead: Syed Ahmed
Tutor: Rizia Begum
Tutor: Heather Smith
Project Worker: Bulirun Nessa
Project Worker: Rita Rahman
Admin Assistant: Tahsyn Habib
Admin Assistant: Ruksana Begum
Admin Assistant: Nusrat Begum
Youth Worker: Farhana Kadir
Youth Worker: Betina Wembo
Youth worker: Hasina Begum
Youth Worker: Shahana Nasrin
Youth Worker: Sultana Begum
Youth Worker: Samad Hussain
Youth Worker: Jahangir Rahman
Youth Worker: Rashel Haque
Youth Worker: Angie Brown
Project Worker: Shanaz Begum
Project Worker: Mahfuza Bhanu
Project Worker: Nahid Ahmed
Project Worker: Madiah Khan
Project Worker: Nabiha Habib
Project Worker: Aneesah Rashid
Play worker: Pipeta O'Brien

Management Committee

Chair: Sharon Barbour
Treasurer: Alex Kind
Secretary: Abdul Hoque Habib
Committee Member: Swapna Uddin
Committee Member: Nicole Quotromini
Committee Member: Zamanur Shah
Committee Member: Emdad Hussain
Committee Member: Salma Shah
Committee Member: Vivian Oberoi
Committee Member: Jim Ford
Committee Member: Renu Sen
Committee Member: Mazharul Islam

Volunteers

Ian Roberts
Shozwana Begum
Asma Begum
Nazreen Khan
Samid Ahmed
Jasiyah Khan
Ayesha Gulzar
Ambia Begum
Shana Khatum
Ruby Miah
Abdur Rouf
Jannat Ahmed
Riaz Miah
Mariam Ali

Accountant

Earl and Grey Accountants: Razaul Kabir

Partners and funders

Partners

Peabody Housing Association
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower Hamlets Homes
East End Homes
Pollyanna Theatre School
Linkage Plus
ELBA
Prevista Training
London Training Centre
Jobcente Plus
Savage Words
Wapping Youth FC
Ocean Youth Connections
Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership
Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park
Community Food Enterprise
Team DJB Taekwondo
Island House
St Mary's Church
Sundial Centre
Incy Wincy Playgroup
London Learning Consortium
JTP Architects
Swedenborg Society

Current funders

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Tower Hill Trust
Wakefield Trust
Peabody
BBC Children in Need
Awards for All- National Lottery
London Community Foundation
East End Community Foundation
ELBA
Tower Hamlets Homes
L&Q
Young Londoners' Fund
Magic FM- Cash for Kids
City of London – City Bridge Trust
Voice for Change
Garfield and Weston
CAF
Derwent
Sheldon trust
London Catalyst
The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards
The Worshipful Company of Insurers
Percy Bilton
Wiiliam Wates
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust
Hiscox Foundation
Ashworth Charitable Trust
Ninevah Trust
Howden Group
People's Health Trust
Trust For London
British Science Association
Ashworth Trust
Voice 4 Change
JRS Grant

Reg No. 07750061
Charity Reg No: 1154824

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

**Financial statements for the year ended
31 March 2022**

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

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SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Name of Organisation: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Correspondence Address: The Whitechapel Centre
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX

Tel: 020 7702 0901

Chairperson: Sharon Barbour

Treasurer: Alex Kind

MC Members: James Ford
Nicole Quotromini
Zamanur Shah
Emdad Hussain
Mazharul Islam
Salma Shah
Swapna Uddin
Renu Sen

Independent Examiner: Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Banker: Natwest Plc
Plaistow Branch
386 Barking Road
London
E13 8JB

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees/Management Committee for the year ended 31st March 2022

The financial statements laid out in this report on page 3 to 5 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in March, 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and that you consider the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, this act does not apply. It is our responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 43(3) (a) of the 1993 Act. Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and;

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with general direction given by the Charity's Commissioner. The examination includes:

- . A review of the accounting records kept by the Charity.
- . A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- . It includes consideration of any unusual items if disclosures in the accounts.

Finally, making explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters relating to the accounts. The examination also includes examination of any such matters of evidence relevant to the account of disclosures in the financial statements. It includes assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

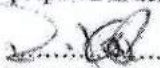
Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- (2) to which in our opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial statement as prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31st March 2022 and that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.


Razaul Kabir ACCA/IFA/MIPA
Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Date: 7th March 2023

SOCIETY LINKS**Income**FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

Income	£	£
BBC Children In Need	39999	
LBTH - Shadwell	50986	
LBTH - Community Fund	27053	
LBTH - Hungry Holidays	16280	
Magic FM - Holiday Hunger	1050	
East End Community Foundation	9000	
London Catalyst	2000	
Derwent	5000	
Tower Hill Trust	15000	
The Julia And Hans Rausing Trust	15500	
Worshipful Company Insurance	5000	
Garfield Weston	15000	
Percy Bilton Trust	500	
XL Catlin Service	390	
Sheldon Trust	9464	
Peabody	16000	
Community Fund National Lottery	10000	
Howden Group Service	500	
LLC (London Learning Consortium)	963	
William Wates Memorial Trust	9757	
East End Homes Ltd	1064	
People's Health Trust	11834	
Trust For London	15000	
CAF	70081	
(BSA) British Science Association	500	
VWV LLP Ashworth Trust	3000	
Nineveh Trust	2000	
The Hiscox Foundation	15896	
Card Maker Trust	1000	
Voice 4 Change	9168	
L&Q Placemakers	2500	
JRS Grant (Furlough)	13656	
Total Income		395141

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

		31.03.22		31.03.21
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Previous year
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grants:				
All Grants	-	330499	330499	155,407
Contracts	50986	-	50986	86,667
JRS (Furlough)	-	13656	13656	62,267
	<u>50986</u>	<u>344155</u>	<u>395141</u>	<u>304,341</u>
Other income:				
Donations	-	-	-	-
Rental income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>525</u>
				525
Total incoming resources	50986	344155	395141	304,866
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Operating costs:				
Admin, Finance & Proj Mang		90036 (inc PAYE)		63454 (exc PAYE)
Project Staff		103948 (inc PAYE)		121900 (exc PAYE)
HMRC PAYE				29000
Equipment, Trips & Project Costs		61646		39882
Premises Cost				
Cleaning		-		775
Administrative Expenses				
Subscriptions		125		-
Training		4545		390
Fund Raising & Publicity	14560	-	4590	
Insurance		1136	1112	
Tel & Internet		452	420	
Pension		<u>5977</u>	<u>5904</u>	
		12235		12416
Financial Expenses				
Bank Charges	24			-
Governance costs				
Accountancy	<u>1317</u>			<u>2083</u>
Total resources expended	<u>15,901</u>	<u>267,865</u>	<u>283,766</u>	<u>269,510</u>
Net income	<u>35,085</u>	<u>76,290</u>	<u>111,375</u>	<u>35,356</u>

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Balance Sheet At 31 March 2022

			31.03.22	31.03.21
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank	126034	98639	224673	101057
Debtors				3332
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year		(15,985)	(15,985)	(7,076)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	<u>126034</u>	<u>82654</u>	<u>208688</u>	<u>97313</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>126034</u>	<u>82654</u>	<u>208688</u>	<u>97313</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>126034</u>	<u>82654</u>	<u>208688</u>	<u>97313</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			126034	97313
Restricted funds			82654	-
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>208688</u>	<u>97313</u>

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Management Committee Report

Registered Name & Address: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, 80 John Fisher Street, London, E1 8JX
Registered Charity Number: 1154824
Registered Company Number: 7750061

Public Benefits Statement

Introduction

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets as a registered charity is committed to compliance and transparency; it strives to demonstrate its benefit for the local residents and wider community. This statement identifies and sets out the aims, purpose, mission and public benefit that the charity provides.

Our Aims and Objectives

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a community-based charity providing opportunities and activities to address the needs of underprivileged people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Through small, targeted projects it empowers people to make significant lifestyle and social changes, and to achieve long-term improvements to their quality of life and that of their families. The activities focus on education and training, unemployment, social exclusion, equality and diversity, and improving the life chances of local people. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works towards its vision of being a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and introducing innovative, new projects to meet the increasing needs of the local population. SocietyLinks aims to build strong partnerships with other organisations to maximize our efficiency and output. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets delivers services across the borough from different venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs within London.

Charitable Purpose and Mission

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' mission is to create opportunities and activities to address the needs of residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social change through creating practical projects.

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are General Charitable Purposes:

- (i) To promote the advancement of education, training, employment and enterprise support for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- (ii) To promote and organise educational and social development of young people who are socially excluded and disengaged from their aspirations.
- (iii) To provide a voice for an under represented generation.
- (iv) To promote equality and tackle exclusion.
- (v) To create opportunities and activities to address the significant needs of deprived and underprivileged residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social changes to improve the quality of life for those living and working in Tower Hamlets.

Beneficiaries

The overall objective of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is to build the capacity of residents on the local estates in Tower Hamlets and create a stronger, more vibrant community that all residents feel a part of and have a sense of ownership towards. We want to help individuals take part in activities, engage in training and work, and grasp opportunities with confidence. We have separate objectives for the different groups that we work with, and we aim to build networks within and between these groups, to create a supportive environment that will sustain personal development for residents. Some of the key client groups that we currently deliver to are listed below:

- CHILDREN from low-income families
- YOUNG PEOPLE at risk of disengagement
- ESOL LEARNERS – residents with English as a second language
- LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED residents
- WOMEN facing barriers to employment and social development
- OLDER PEOPLE at risk of isolation.

Public Benefit

The beneficial impact of the work that SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets has delivered this year is demonstrated through the outcomes achieved by the following tailored projects:

Youth Services (ages 8-18)
 Study Support (ages 12- 18) & Homework Club (ages 6-11)
 Girls' Group (ages 8- 18)
 Tunes Against Knives (ages 10- 18)
 Sports Sessions (ages 11-18) & Exercise (women 18+)
 Holiday Programmes and activities (ages 5-16)
 Job Club (adults 18+)
 IT Class (adults 18+) & E-safety Sessions (women 18+)
 Chat and Chai (women 18+)
 Stay and Play (ages 0-5)
 Community Events (all ages)
 Sewing Class (ages 18+)
 Autism/ SEND Awareness Group (ages 18+)
 Fuel Poverty Campaign (age 12-19)
 Cost of Living Food Distribution (all ages)
 ESOL/ Pre- ESOL (ages 18+)
 Digital Divide Campaign (device distribution)
 Training, workshops and courses
 Detached Outreach and Referrals

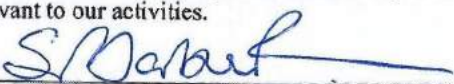
These projects help to:

- Offer opportunities to young people to engage in educational, diversionary and positive activities
- Encourage positive participation in society and community activities
- Develop the employability of job seekers and support advancement of those in work through training and support
- Facilitate the development of community networks to reduce isolation and promote community development
- Create opportunities/ access to resources and support that they may otherwise not have access to
- Support individual/ families specific needs and disadvantages, implement inclusion and enhance their access to services and signpost accordingly
- Equip service users with skills, knowledge and information to empower them to have a voice and confidence to overcome barriers and make positive decisions

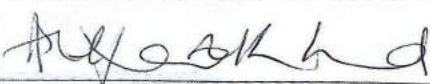
The ongoing success and benefit of these services is measured by their popularity and recorded attendance levels and the positive feedback from partners, service users and wider stakeholders reflects the continuous demand for increasing capacity and longevity of projects.

Charity Commission Public Benefit Guidance Compliance

We believe we have complied with our duty to have due regard to the commission's public interest guidance wherever it is relevant to our activities.

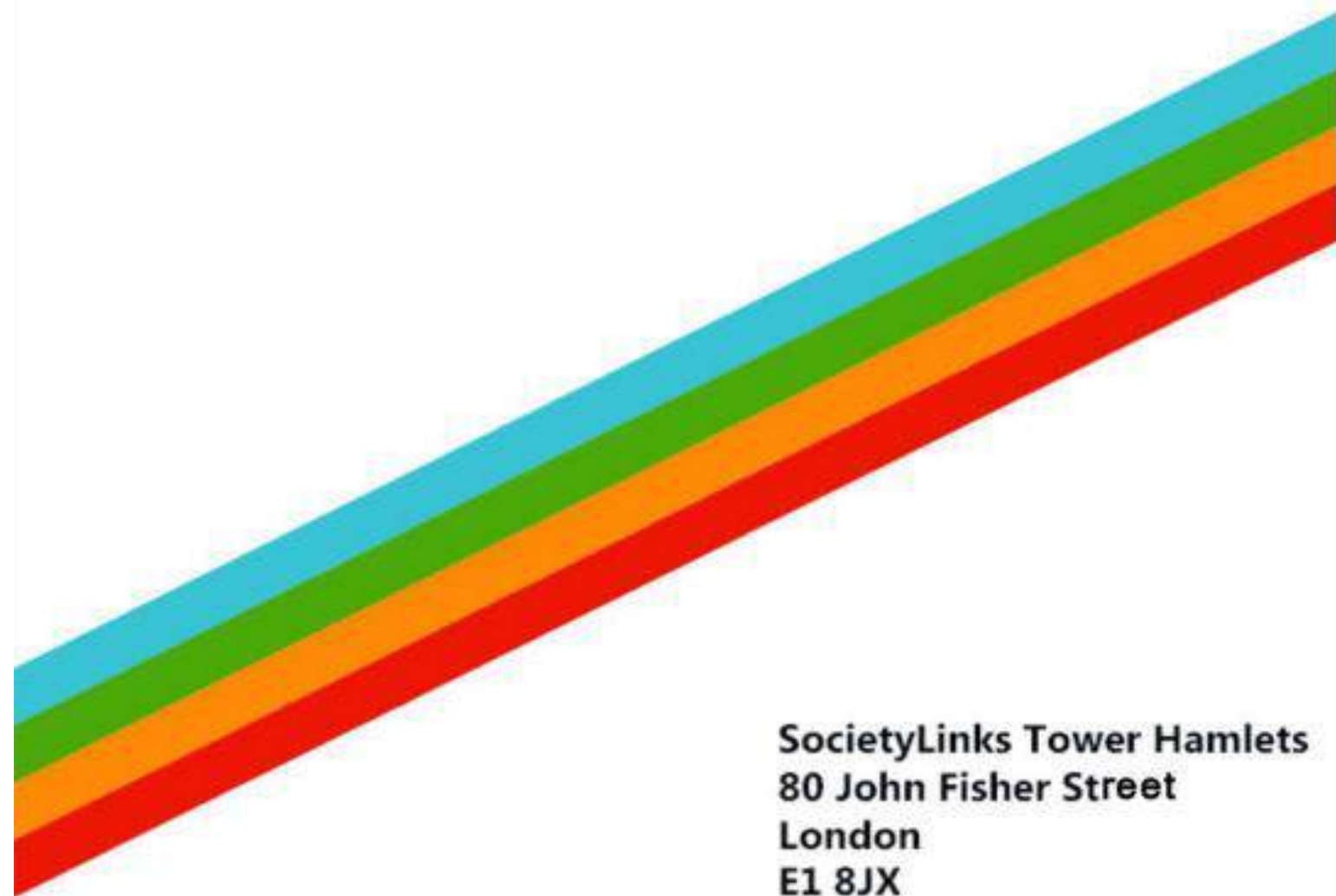


Chairperson



Treasurer

Approved on: 08/03/2023



Registered Charity: 1154824
Registered Company: 7750061

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX
Tel: 0207 702 0901
E: info@societylinks.org.uk
www.societylinks.org.uk

Accounts

Reg No. 07750061
Charity Reg No: 1154824

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Financial statements for the year ended
31 March 2021

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

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SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Name of Organisation: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Correspondence Address: The Whitechapel Centre
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX

Tel: 020 7702 0901

Chairman: Miss Alex Kind

Secretary: Swapna Uddin

Treasurer: Miss Renu Sen

MC Members: Abdul Habib
Nicole Quotromini
Zamanur Shah
Emdad Hussain
Mazharul Islam
Salma Shah
Sharon Barbour
Ngozi Obiora

Independent Examiner: Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
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10-16 Tiller Road
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Plaistow Branch
386 Barking Road
London
E13 8JB

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees/Management Committee for the year ended 31st March 2021

The financial statements laid out in this report on page 3 to 5 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in March, 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and that you consider the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, this act does not apply. It is our responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 43(3) (a) of the 1993 Act. Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and:

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with general direction given by the Charity's Commissioner. The examination includes:

- . A review of the accounting records kept by the Charity.
- . A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- . It includes consideration of any unusual items if disclosures in the accounts.

Finally, making explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters relating to the accounts. The examination also includes examination of any such matters of evidence relevant to the account of disclosures in the financial statements. It includes assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

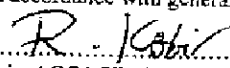
- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which in our opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial statement as prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31st March 2021 and that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.


Razaul Kabir ACCA/IFAMIPA
Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Date: 11th May 2021

SOCIETY LINKS**Income and Expense****FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021**

Income	£	£
BBC Children In Need	42999	
Canary Wharf Trust	750	
Church Urban Fund	2400	
City of London - Covid Response	3500	
East End Community Foundation	13064	
L&Q - Place Makers	7500	
LBTH - Community Fund	21094	
LBTH - Hungry Holidays	9700	
LBTH - Shadwell	86667	
London Community Foundation	15000	
Magic FM - Cash for Kids	3000	
Tower Hamlets Homes	8500	
Young Londoners Fund (Mayor of London)	27900	
Job Retention Scheme (Furlough)	62267	
Hall Hire, Donations & Other	525	
Total Income		304866
Expenses		
Admin, Finance and Management Staff (net of PAYE deductions)	63454	
Project Staff (net of PAYE deductions)	121900	
HMRC PAYE	29000	
Pension Contributions	5902	
Equipment, Trips & Project Costs	39882	
Fundraising	4590	
Training	390	
Cleaning	775	
Tel & Int	420	
Insurance	1112	
Accountancy	2083	
Total Expense		269510
Total Surplus		35356

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	31-Mar-21	
	£	£
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Fixed Assets		-
Current Assets		
Debtors	3,332	
Cash at bank and in hand	101,057	
	104,389	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7,076	
Net current assets/(liabilities)		97,313
Net Assets		97,313
Funds Represented by:		
Excess of Income over Expenditure/(Surplus) for March 2021		35,356
Balance B/fwd		61,957
Total funds C/fwd		97,313

Alexander Ud Chairperson

Renu Sen Treasurer

Approved on: 17/5/21

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Management Committee Report

Registered Name & Address: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, 80 John Fisher Street, London, E1 8JX

Registered Charity Number: 1154824

Registered Company Number: 7750061

Public Benefits Statement

Introduction

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets as a registered charity is committed to compliance and transparency; it strives to demonstrate its benefit for the local residents and wider community. This statement identifies and sets out the aims, purpose, mission and public benefit that the charity provides.

Our Aims and Objectives

SocietyLinks is a community-based charity providing opportunities and activities to address the needs of underprivileged people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Through small, targeted projects it empowers people to make significant lifestyle and social changes, and to achieve long-term improvements to their quality of life and that of their families. The activities focus on education and training, unemployment, social exclusion, equality and diversity, and improving the life chances of local people. SocietyLinks works towards its vision of being a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and introducing innovative, new projects to meet the increasing needs of the local population. SocietyLinks aims to build strong partnerships with other organisations to maximize our efficiency and output. SocietyLinks envisages being able to deliver services across the borough from different venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs within London.

Charitable Purpose and Mission

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' mission is to create opportunities and activities to address the needs of residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social change through creating practical projects.

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are General Charitable Purposes:

- (i) To promote the advancement of education, training, employment and enterprise support for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- (ii) To promote and organise educational and social development of young people who are socially excluded and disengaged from their aspirations.
- (iii) To provide a voice for an under represented generation.
- (iv) To promote equality and tackle exclusion.
- (v) To create opportunities and activities to address the significant needs of deprived and underprivileged residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social changes to improve the quality of life for those living and working in Tower Hamlets.

Beneficiaries

The overall objective of SocietyLinks is to build the capacity of residents on the local estates in Tower Hamlets and create a stronger, more vibrant community that all residents feel a part of and have a sense of ownership towards. We want to help individuals take part in activities, engage in training and work, and grasp opportunities with confidence. We have separate objectives for the different groups that we work with, and we aim to build networks within and between these groups, to create a supportive environment that will sustain personal development for residents. Some of the key client groups that we currently deliver to are listed below:

- CHILDREN from low-income families
- YOUNG PEOPLE at risk of disengagement
- ESOL LEARNERS – residents with English as a second language
- LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED residents
- WOMEN facing barriers to employment and social development
- OLDER PEOPLE at risk of isolation.

Public Benefit

The benefit provided by SocietyLinks to our service users is thorough the delivery of its projects and services which include:

Youth Services (ages 8-18)
 Study Support (ages 12- 18) & Homework Club (ages 6-11)
 Girls' Group (ages 8- 18)
 Tunes Against Knives (ages 10- 18)
 Sports Sessions (ages 11-18) & Exercise (women 18+)
 Holiday Programmes and activities (ages 8-18)
 Job Club (adults 18+)
 IT Class (adults 18+) & E-safety Sessions (women 18+)
 Chat and Chal (women 18+)
 Playgroup (ages 2-5)
 Sewing class/NHS PPE production (ages 18+)
 Autism Awareness Group (ages 18+)
 Fuel Poverty Campaign (age 12-19)
 Covid-19 Food Distribution (all ages)
 Young Peoples' Lunch Provision (ages 11-18)
 Covid-19 Communication (welfare checks)
 Digital Divide Campaign (Computer distribution)

These projects help to:

- enhance the employability of service users and develop their relevant skills
- offer opportunities that they may otherwise not have access to
- support individuals with specific needs and disadvantages
- create networks within the community to reduce isolation
- engage young people at risk into positive diversionary activities
- empowers individuals with confidence and skills to overcome barriers
- transform the lives and routines of households to live more beneficial, healthier and productive lifestyles.

The success and benefit of these services can be measured by their popularity and attendance levels and the continuous demand for increasing capacity and longevity of projects.

Charity Commission Public Benefit Guidance Compliance

We believe we have complied with our duty to have due regard to the commission's public interest guidance wherever it is relevant to our activities.

Covid 19 Response

Our Covid-19 response included food distribution to families and homeless groups, referrals for support of fuel bill support, warm clothes, online job search and training support, online tuition, PPE production by our sewing group members, distribution of computer devices to children and young people to support home education.

Alexander K. P.

Chairperson

Renu Sen.

Treasurer

Approved on:

17/5/21