

# Annual Report 2021-2022



**SocietyLinks**

Tower Hamlets

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## Foreword from the Chair

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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***



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## Project Manager's Report

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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***



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## About SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

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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

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## SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets in 2021-22

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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.



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### **Outcomes at a glance: 2021/22**

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- 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.

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### A year in figures: what we've achieved

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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.





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## Financial statement

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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.



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## Community and Volunteering Projects

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### 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.

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## Community Services

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### 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.

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## Training Hub

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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.

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## **Women's Services**

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#### **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.

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## Swedenborg Gardens

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### 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.



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## Youth Service

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### 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.



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## Staff, Management Committee and volunteers 2021/22

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### **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

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## Partners and funders

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### ***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**

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**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.

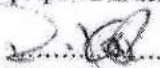
#### **Independent Examiners' Statement**

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

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

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<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
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	
<b>Total Income</b>		<hr/> 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
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Grants:</b>				
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>
<b>Other income:</b>				
Donations	-	-	-	-
Rental income	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>525</u>
				525
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	50986	344155	395141	304,866
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Operating costs:</b>				
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
<b>Premises Cost</b>				
Cleaning		-		775
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>				
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
<b>Financial Expenses</b>				
Bank Charges	24			-
<b>Governance costs</b>				
Accountancy	<u>1317</u>			<u>2083</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<u>15,901</u>	<u>267,865</u>	<u>283,766</u>	<u>269,510</u>
<b>Net income</b>	<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
	£	£	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash at bank	126034	98639	224673	101057
Debtors				3332
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year		(15,985)	(15,985)	(7,076)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>126034</u>	<u>82654</u>	<u>208688</u>	<u>97313</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>126034</u>	<u>82654</u>	<u>208688</u>	<u>97313</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>126034</u>	<u>82654</u>	<u>208688</u>	<u>97313</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			126034	97313
Restricted funds			82654	-
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>208688</u>	<u>97313</u>

## **SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS**

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### **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

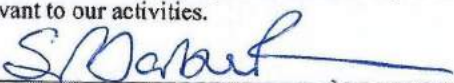
These projects help to:

- 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

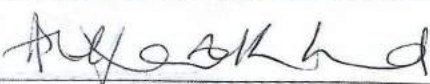
The ongoing success and benefit of these services is measured by their popularity and recorded attendance levels and the positive feedback from partners, service users and wider stakeholders reflects the continuous demand for increasing capacity and longevity of projects.

#### 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.

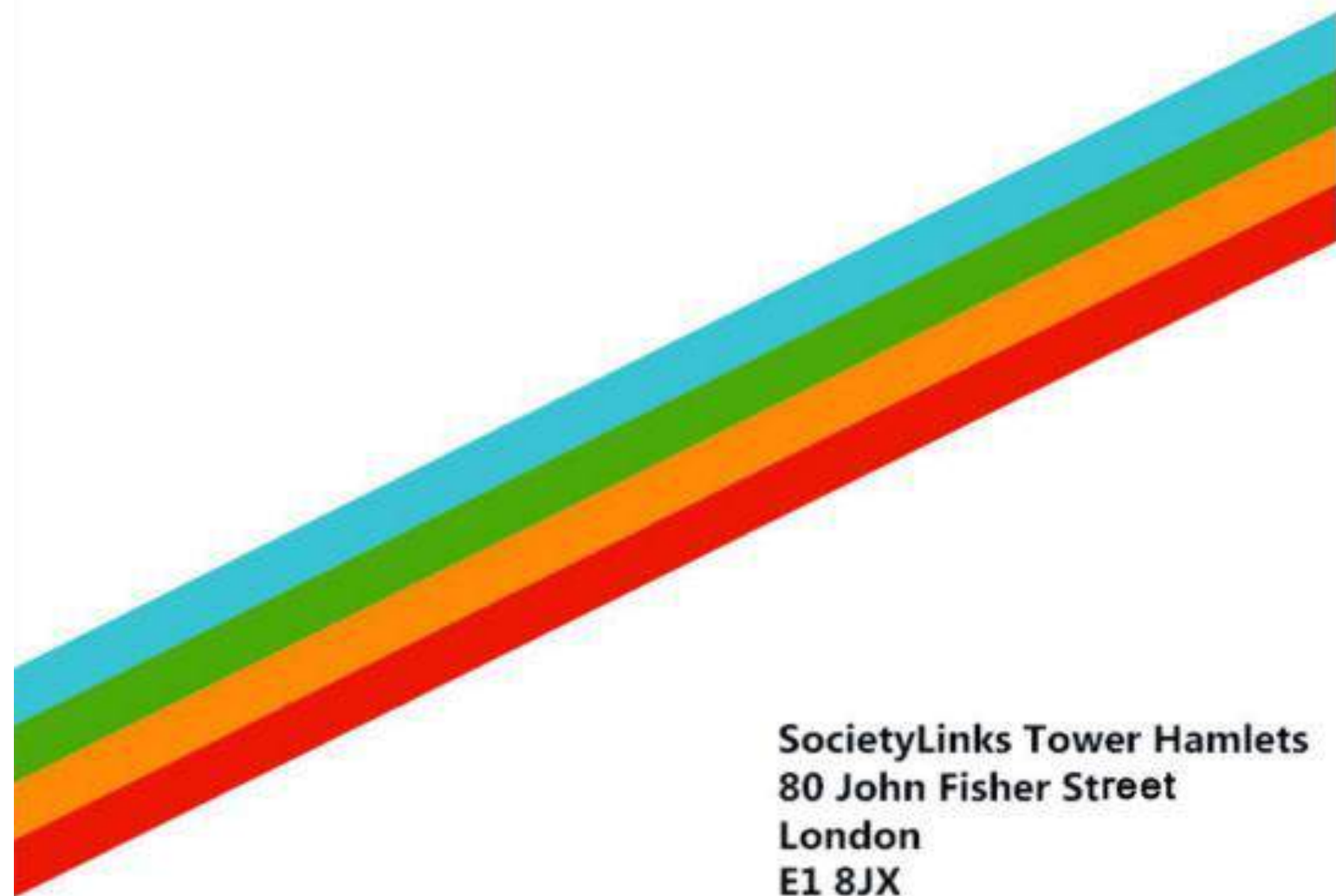


Chairperson



Treasurer

Approved on: 08/03/2023



Registered Charity: 1154824  
Registered Company: 7750061

**SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets**  
**80 John Fisher Street**  
**London**  
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