



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



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## Foreword from the Chair

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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***

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## Project Manager's report

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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***

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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 2023-2024

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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.



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

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Between April 2023 and March 2024:

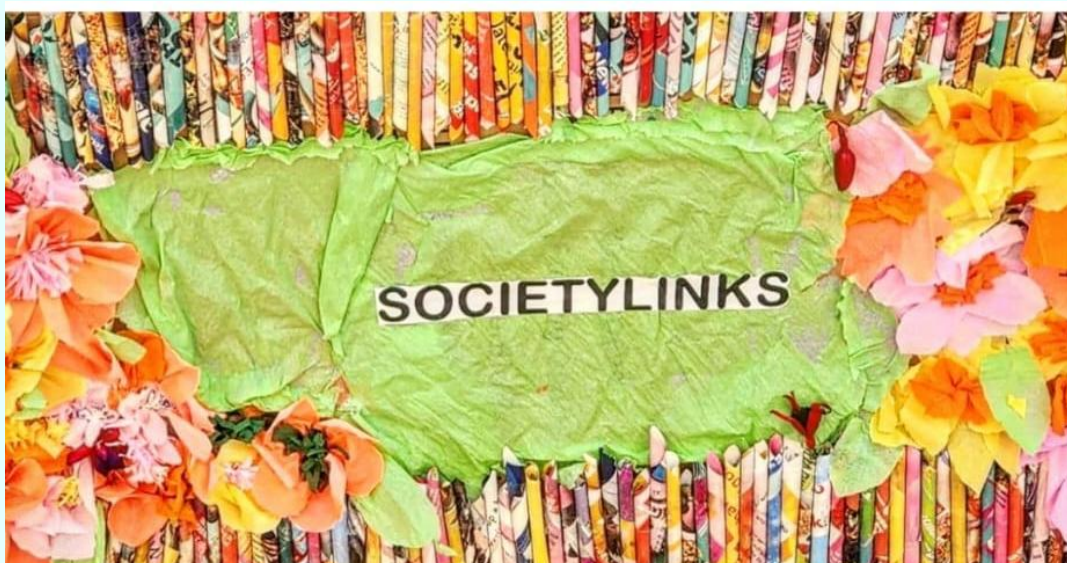
- **1,734** residents used SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' services
- **563** residents attended a SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' community event
- **562** young people aged 8-19 years engaged with SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets
- **36** adults and young people took part in accredited training, in areas such as 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

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### Outcomes at a glance: 2023/24

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- 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.



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## Financial statement

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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.





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## Community services

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### 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.





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## Training hub

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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.





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## Women's services

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### 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.



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## Youth services

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### 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.



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## Staff, Management Committee and volunteers 2023/24

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### **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 Khatum  
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 Khatum  
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

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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  
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**

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Financial statements for the year ended  
31 March 2024

## **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

**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

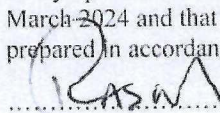
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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: 11<sup>th</sup> 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
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>440,799</b>	<b>5,268</b>
		<b>446,067</b>

## SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

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

	Unrestricted fund £	31.03.24 Restricted fund £	Total funds £	31.03.23 Previous year £
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>				
<b>Grants:</b>				
All Grants	-	440,799	440,799	339,913
Contracts	-	-	-	100,000
JRS (Furlough)	-	-	-	-
		440,799	440,799	439,913
<b>Other income:</b>				
Rental income	365	-	-	265
Donations	4,903	-	-	1,042
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	5,268	440,799	446,067	441,220
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>				
<b>Operating costs:</b>				
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
<u>Premises Cost</u>				
Cleaning		-		-
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>				
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
<u>Financial Expenses</u>				
Bank Charges	329			342
<b>Governance costs</b>				
Accountancy	1,260			3,315
Legal & Other Professional	3,720			3,344
<b>Total resources expended</b>	10,209	419,806	430,014	445,007
<b>Net income</b>	(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
	£	£	£	£
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Cash at bank	132,103	43,794	175,897	161,264
Debtors		62,455	62,455	51,475
<b>CREDITORS</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year		(17,398)	(17,398)	(7,837)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>132,103</u>	<u>88,851</u>	<u>220,954</u>	<u>204,902</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>132,103</u>	<u>88,851</u>	<u>220,954</u>	<u>204,902</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>132,103</u>	<u>88,851</u>	<u>220,954</u>	<u>204,902</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			132,103	117,470
Restricted funds			88,851	87,432
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>220,954</u>	<u>204,902</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 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

Charity Number: 1154824

Company: 7750061

80 John Fisher Street E1 8JX

0207-702-0901

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[@society.links](https://www.instagram.com/society.links)