

## **The development of a Voluntary and Community Sector Network for the Economic Development Partnership (EDP): Consultation**

I am contacting you to gather your views about a **proposed network of voluntary and community sector providers** involved in Economic Development.

**The aim of the network** is to create a two-way dialogue between Team Hackney's Economic Development Partnership and voluntary and community sector agencies in order to lead to better economic development services for local people.

**The proposed objectives** are to ensure that:

- The Local Area Agreement and future commissioning is informed and influenced by the expertise and experience of voluntary and community sector frontline agencies who are currently engaged in economic development
- Frontline agencies from the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) are better able to help shape and deliver the targets and priorities in the Local Area Agreement
- Frontline agencies are able to network together and with Team Hackney (and the statutory agencies who are part of Team Hackney) in order to co-ordinate activity which is funded by diverse funding sources and look at gaps in provision and needs in communities

The set up of the network is part of the **Community Empowerment Network's** (CEN) programme of work for 2007-8 and the CEN will be developing similar networks linked to each of the Team Hackney Partnerships Boards. As an umbrella organisation for training, employment and enterprise development agencies from the voluntary and community sector, **HTEN has been commissioned by the Community Empowerment Network** to develop and set up the economic development network.

**As a first stage, we are talking to stakeholders and providers about how the network can be most effective. We intend to produce draft terms of reference by the end of March 2008, with an inaugural meeting in April 2008. The questions and issues we would like to discuss with you are overleaf.**

---

The Hackney Community Empowerment Network (CEN) promotes and supports the voluntary and community sector (VCS) role in Team Hackney. There are currently two Voluntary and Community Sector representatives on the EDP: Sonia Khan, HTEN and Bisi Ojuri, Hackney Voluntary Action. HTEN acts as an umbrella organisation for the voluntary and community training, employment and business support sector operating in Hackney.

## How we would like to gather your views

To gather your views, we would like to book a time to discuss this with you in a telephone interview. The following dates are being kept available for this discussion.

13<sup>th</sup> December 3pm - 5pm  
14<sup>th</sup> December 2pm – 5pm  
19<sup>th</sup> December 10am-11.30

**The interview should take a maximum of 30 minutes. If, as an alternative, you would like to meet please call 020 7249 7669 to agree a time.**

We are also holding consultation events on 13<sup>th</sup> December and 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Download a flyer at

<http://www.hten.org/downloads/ehk0yrn4/13th%20December%20flyer.pdf>

And a booking form at

<http://www.hten.org/downloads/h9qtpv1g/BOOKING%20FORM13-12-07.doc>

## What we'd like you to think about

### 1. The aims and objectives as outlined above

- Will they help lead to improved services?
- Are any additional objectives needed?
- Are any amendments to the objectives needed?

### 2. Membership

- Should this be open or should there be a membership?

### 3. Focus and format

- What balance of the following network activities should there be:
  - Virtual networking by email or website
  - Networking and partnership events
  - Information sessions
  - Formal meetings which consider the business of the Economic Development Partnership and feedback views

### 4. Existing networks

- Which existing voluntary and community sector networks need to be included in this network (including HTEN)?
- What should the relationship be between this network and existing enterprise networks?

### 5. Decision making, steering and co-ordination

- Who steers the work of the forum and how decisions are made?
- How should the network be co-ordinated?

### 6. Links to Economic Development Partnership (EDP) and to your organisation

- How would the EDP need to change to be able to work effectively with this new network?
- What links would you like to see forged between your organisation and the network?

Sonia Khan  
Chief Executive  
HTEN  
[sonia@hten.org](mailto:sonia@hten.org)  
020 7249 7669