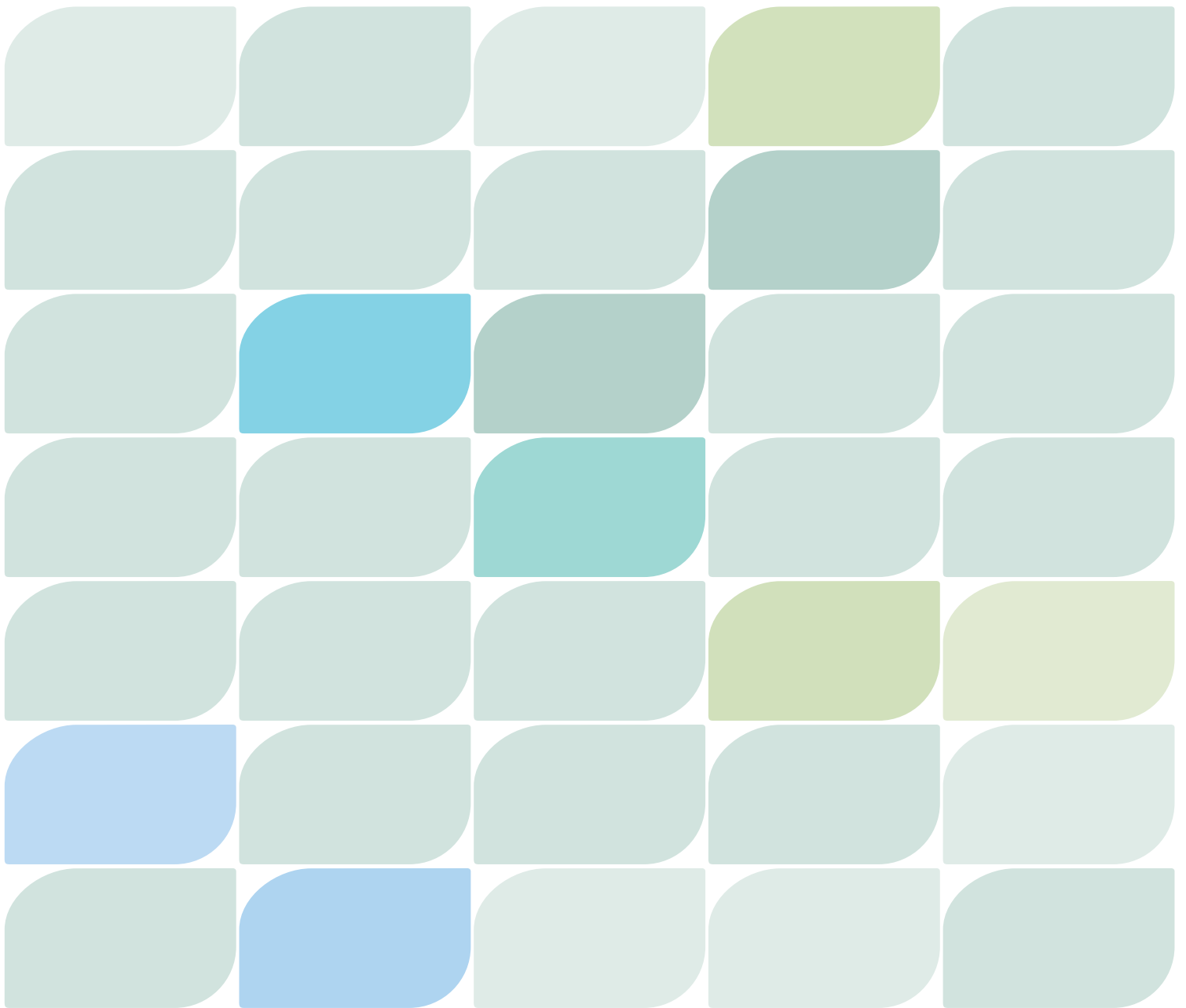


ANNUAL REVIEW 2005 | 2006



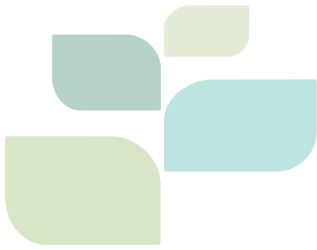
London's voluntary and community sector in partnership with Europe to promote social inclusion

“ The (voluntary) sector is often better placed than government to both design and deliver public services that are needed. Voluntary and community organisations are often better able to reach and provide appropriate services to those who have complex needs and are excluded or at risk of being excluded from society.”

OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL | 7th Annual Report 2005, Department for Work and Pensions

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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

I am pleased to write this Foreword to the LVSTC Annual Report covering our work over 2005–2006 including the UK Presidency of the European Union.

We have continued to support voluntary and community sector providers to deliver services under the European Structural Funds. As this Report describes in detail, we have undertaken a wide range of activities for the sector: with the 10 Co-Financing Organisations of the London-wide Objective 3 Programme; with the four Area Partnerships of the London Objective 2 Programme; and with the London Borough of Lambeth under the URBAN II Community Initiative. This focused work was increased with the launch, in the spring of 2005, of our pan-London Skills for Economic Inclusion Network (SKEIN) and, in the New Year 2006, of our Community Economic Enhancement Project (CEEP).

These latter two initiatives confirm that, in addition to direct support for street-level organisations, we have continued to be active in the capacity building of the sector. The SKEIN Project has involved us in extensive activity across eight sub-regional Learning Hubs with seven Delivery Partners from the voluntary sector and 12 Strategic Partners from both the voluntary and public sectors. The CEEP scheme is enabling us to concentrate resources on developing organisations run by ethnic minority groups across London. Meanwhile, through to the Spring of 2006, we have been carefully building the LEAD Project with second-tier networks in each of the 10 boroughs of East London.

At the strategic level, we've worked closely with the London Development Agency to steer the Inclusion Objective of the London Skills Commission. We've continued in the partnership with the Association of London Government (now London Councils), Greater London Enterprise, Greater London Assembly and London Development Agency to promote the Case for London to receive European Structural Funds after 2006. Here, we were at the forefront of extensive public Consultation around the Draft UK National Strategic Reference Framework for the new Funds.

I would like to thank the elected Board for their commitment in another extremely busy year; especially Greg Cohn, Hindy Lew and Clive Taylor, who stood down during the period of this Report after many years of service. Also I'd like to express my appreciation for the contributions of the staff, who increased in number to 31 and coped so well in the office move from Hackney to Tower Hamlets.

Finally, I would like to thank the funders for their confidence in LVSTC: the Government Office for London, the European Commission, the ALG (now London Councils), Lambeth Council, the London Development Agency, the Community Fund (now Big Lottery Fund), the City Parochial Foundation, and the Learning and Skills Council (London East and Pan-London).

As we move forward, major funding regimes in London are in transition. In addition, we're working for the launch of the 2007–2013 European Structural Funds Programme. Along with the rest of our sector, we're anxious to see the landscape settle. The story in the following pages shows that we're not short of momentum.

Simin Azimi – November 2006

INTRODUCTION

This Report and Review covers the work of the London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium over 2005 and 2006 across the financial year, for which abstract audited accounts are included. Our work has continued to focus on the needs of London voluntary and community sector service providers in the development of vocational training and economic regeneration as they affect groups and areas excluded from the benefits of economic growth.

Since incorporation in 1989, we have devoted much of our time to support voluntary organisations in accessing match-finance from the European Structural Funds. A few explanatory notes may be helpful, here. These Funds have been established by the European Union to promote economic and social cohesion with a focus on combating social exclusion. As restated in the EU's Third Cohesion Report, in early 2004, they promote government programmes to fight inequality.

Over the period of this Report, LVSTC has been actively involved in helping voluntary groups to run projects under two Objectives of these Funds:

- **Objective 3** – combating long-term unemployment and facilitating occupational integration
- **Objective 2** – supporting the economic and social conversion of areas facing structural difficulties.

With regard to the first, providers are able to tap the European Social Fund (ESF) dedicated to the promotion of vocational guidance and training for the unemployed and the vulnerable employed. Objective 2 offers access, not only to ESF, but also to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which supports business and infrastructure development.

We have been working in the context of several key government policy initiatives, including:

- the UK Government's Welfare to Work Programme as a feature of the UK National Employment Action Plan: approved at the 1998 Cardiff Summit of the European Council of Ministers and annually revised, most recently in October 2005, as the UK Employment Chapter under the UK National Reform Programme
- the UK Government's Learning and Skills Act 2000, which established the Learning and Skills Council
- the setting up, in Spring 2000, of the Greater London Assembly and, specifically, the London Development Agency: to oversee economic regeneration; to formulate the London Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action; and to develop the regional response to the National Skills Strategy ("21st Century Skills": 2003)
- the realignment of the EU Structural Funds from 2000–2006 under the Agenda 2000 decision-making process, which in the capital involves delivery through the Government Office for London and, latterly, the advanced planning for Agenda 2007
- the UK Government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal as a feature of the UK National Action Plan on Social Inclusion approved at the 2001 Summit of the European Council of Ministers and revised, most recently in September 2006, on a biennial basis.

VISION AND MISSION

The LVSTC was set up by a consortium of voluntary sector training providers and was legally incorporated as a charity in October 1989.

Our **vision** is:

“to be the lead organisation in London for the strategic development of effective training in the voluntary and community sector to meet the needs of socially excluded groups.”

In pursuit of the above, our **mission** is to offer technical assistance to providers in the voluntary and community sector:

QUALITY SECTOR

- to help ensure that more potential trainees from all London Boroughs have information about and access to voluntary/community sector provision
- to offer comprehensive technical support services to voluntary sector providers including telephone advice, referral systems, information bulletins, training for groups on funding applications, match-funding, quality controls, monitoring systems, auditing procedures, trans-national partners, claim forms
- to work for the improvement of the European, national and regional administrative systems for ESF/ERDF so that voluntary/community groups are not jeopardised by slack decision-making and late payments
- to inform voluntary and community sector providers running EU-funded projects on emerging European trends in vocational training, financial/business planning so that they can continue to thrive in the new EU funding regime emerging from the Agenda 2000 reform
- to assist voluntary/community sector providers in networking and developing cross-sectoral partnerships at local, regional, national and European levels.

TRAINING FUNDS

- to increase the amount of ESF and other European funds for the voluntary and community sector training providers working with unemployed and disadvantaged people in London
- to ensure that policy makers continue to recognise the need for ESF to meet the needs of disadvantaged people in London, and the importance that this provision is independently managed by elected committees representing and accessible to users.

ECONOMIC REGENERATION

- to stimulate the formation of partnerships involving voluntary sector providers to encourage solidarity rather than unfettered competition
- to increase access and take-up of ERDF co-finance by voluntary/community sector providers
- to enhance voluntary sector input into the London Development Agency
- to promote voluntary/community sector participation in schemes of neighbourhood and community economic development.

DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

- to promote continued and effective voluntary sector involvement in the decision-making process at local, regional, national and European levels
- to consolidate the number of LVSTC members and affiliates ensuring that these reflect voluntary sector providers' geographical spread across London as well as their interest in ethnicity, gender, disability and age
- to invite and secure feedback from trainees and beneficiaries of economic regeneration on how schemes can be improved and to collaborate with voluntary sector providers to act on such recommendations.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

- to contribute to the development of government strategies and programmes which promote social inclusion based on equal opportunities at local, regional, national and European levels
- to encourage broad, inclusive participation within LVSTC through the non-discriminatory recruitment of members, elected Board, staff, clients, contacts and volunteers
- to maintain and develop services, which meet the needs of all voluntary and community groups seeking to combat social exclusion through use of the European Structural Funds in London.

RACIAL EQUALITY

- to recognise and tackle institutional racism
- to prioritise the formulation and implementation of the LVSTC Race Equality Action Plan
- to work positively to promote organisations of ethnic minorities, who are the main ESF beneficiary sub-group of the unemployed/vulnerable employed in London, as providers under the European Structural Funds.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- to promote sound environmental management policies and practices in our work
- to increase awareness of environmental responsibilities amongst Board, staff, service users and suppliers
- to work with other agencies locally, nationally and at the EU levels to promote appropriate environmental policies.

RESOURCES

- to ensure that LVSTC has the capacity (in terms of finance, personnel, information and equipment) to deliver quality services to the sector and partners
- to recognise the importance of the maintenance of the Investor In People quality standard throughout the organisation
- to ensure the Board has the appropriate knowledge and skills to steer and manage LVSTC as a sustainable organisation
- to ensure the staff have the requisite knowledge and skills to deliver an effective, efficient programme of activity to meet the needs of Members and other users.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

At the operational level, LVSTC activities have been guided by four sets of targeted Aims, Objectives and Outcomes:

1. DELIVERY **To help voluntary and community organisations to provide high quality training/ services run by and for socially-excluded groups in London with particular attention to funds available from the European Union:**

Awareness

- to ensure that information on European funding reaches street-level organisations working with economically and socially excluded people
- to promote LVSTC services and expertise through the delivery of an effective marketing strategy

and, thereby, increase awareness of voluntary/community organisations of funding opportunities under the European Structural Funds in London.

Access

- to support providers in securing and managing European funding
- to support the sector in accessing complementary UK funding

and, thereby, increase the number of voluntary/community organisations accessing the European Structural Funds in London.

Retention

- to offer technical expertise and advice services to the voluntary and community sector in London
 - to provide support to organisations to enable them to provide quality training services
- and, thereby, increase the number of voluntary/community organisations sustaining access to the European Structural Funds in London.

2. PARTNERSHIP **To promote the partnership of voluntary and community training/service providers with government, European Commission, Co-Financing Organisations and with Area Partnerships to combat social exclusion:**

- to work closely, on the operational level, with the Government Office for London
- to work with Co-Financing Organisations, under Objective 3, to engage voluntary and community sector providers
- to work with Area Partnerships, under Objective 2, to engage voluntary and community sector providers
- to work with the London Borough of Lambeth, under URBAN II, to involve community groups
- to work with the London Learning and Skills Council(s) to promote LEAD and SKEIN

and, thereby, increase the number of voluntary/community organisations engaging with cross-sectoral partnerships under the European Structural Funds in London.

3. STRATEGY **To lead the London voluntary and community sector in developing the strategy for learning and skills and in promoting this to policy makers:**

- to promote the interests of sector training/service providers in a democratic, transparent and accountable way
- to represent the interests of sector training/service providers to policy makers
- to undertake action research on issues facing sector providers with external funding and, thereby, increase the influence of the voluntary/community sector on policy formation under the European Structural Funds in London.

4. GOVERNANCE **To deliver LVSTC Aims, Objectives and Outcomes within a framework of effective governance:**

- to ensure accountability through effective governance
 - to secure adequate resources, systems and structures
 - to develop the Membership base with the active involvement of Members
 - to promote the effectiveness and well-being of staff
- and, thereby, increase ownership of LVSTC by voluntary/community sector service providers.

“ We want to draw on the wealth of experience of those working in other sectors, and we are looking for greater involvement on the part of voluntary-sector providers in the future reform agenda. They are often best placed to support our clients, particularly those with a health condition or disability, by providing the specialist services they need.”

A NEW DEAL FOR WELFARE: EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO WORK | DWP, 2006

Branching Out



Branching Out is a partnership project consisting of Southgate College, New Direction Training, Orion Pax, UKEMP, Edmonton Law Centre, Edmonton Credit Union, Face Front Inclusive Theatre and Enfield Arts Partnership who will be managing this project. The partnership has secured £443,000 of which £198,999 is drawn from ESF in the Objective 2 programme Measure 1.3 Community Skills Development.

Branching Out offers pre labour market training opportunities for hard to reach local residents in the Objective 2 Community Economic Development (CED) wards. The project delivers a variety of skills to help people overcome barriers to employment. Branching out will deliver hard skill training; recognised qualifications necessary for employment and soft skill training; to develop confidence, communication skills, team building, interview techniques and role play of employment situation. Branching Out will also offer mentoring, advice and guidance and work experience.

The whole idea of this project is to deliver a structured pathway that people can work through in order to gain employment. There are no other individual or group of providers who can deliver this diverse and integrated approach to training.

All the partners except for Southgate College are located in the same area, Edmonton Green Market Square. It is this fact that will enable the beneficiaries to get a quality structured service. The

beneficiaries will be given a clear, concise, structured program in which to work to help them gain employment. It will be tailored to their individual needs in order that they can gain the best from this project and outputs can be achieved. The partners will work together bringing their specialist expertise to ensure delivery of each element of that program.

Branching Out Poem

*Have you heard of Branching Out
Well listen up, cos were about
We are enablers in your need
We're here to help you plant that seed
That says I can – when you feel unable
Feel you have nothing to bring to the table
Or maybe you're over-qualified
Yet still not working – someone lied
Or life's situation has knocked you back
Well its time to go on the ATTACK
What skill, what course, what job, what career
Come and try us – overcome that fear
With signposted training options galore
Just walk right in through ARTZONE'S Door*

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As noted earlier, our work has been increasingly influenced by the anticipation and implementation of governmental policy changes at European, national and regional levels that fundamentally impact on economic regeneration programmes (including vocational guidance/training) in London.

EUROPEAN

Here the context for the Structural Funds (2000–2006) has been shaped primarily by the debate amongst member states and the EU institutions on Agenda 2000 around the five Operational Principles of the Funds:

Concentration

- the reduction in number and targeting of Objectives/Initiatives
- the merger of Objectives 3 and 4
- the re-designation of Objective 2 areas
- four year transitional ERDF arrangements where de-designation happens.

Partnership

- greater participation of voluntary/community sector
- accountability of programme Monitoring Committees
- simplification of procedures without undermining partners.

Programming

- proofing in terms of equality, poverty and environmental sustainability
- linking national strategies on employment to those on social inclusion
- role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as small enterprises in the social economy
- continuity of strategic funding over seven year cycle.

Additionality

- avoiding substitution by preserving national public expenditure levels
- appropriate intervention rates for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) with targeted Technical Assistance support
- introducing a pilot small-grants scheme of global grants for NGOs.

Efficiency

- promoting transparency and streamlining of financial arrangements
- fair and open monitoring systems
- recognising social need in setting financial targets.

NATIONAL

Under the last UK Presidency (January–June 1998) as part of the European Employment Strategy, member states prepared the first of their National Employment Action Plans for common submission and endorsement. ESF is the main delivery mechanism for this Strategy. The Plans are subject to annual review at the closing Summit of each alternate Presidency. They are broadly shaped by the agreed EU Employment Guidelines, which were initially based on the four Pillars (employability, entrepreneurship, adaptability and equal opportunities) and which have since been revised around three key objectives:

- full employment
- quality and productivity
- cohesion and social inclusion.

At the end of 2003, the EU Employment Taskforce recommended supplementary priorities: increasing the adaptability of workers and enterprises; attracting more people to enter and remain on the labour market; investing more effectively in human capital and lifelong learning; and ensuring effective implementation of reforms through better governance. The UK Government has responded, most recently in the October 2005 National Reform Programme, Lisbon Strategy for Jobs and Growth, with the promotion of the following three objectives:

- macroeconomic policies for jobs and growth
- promoting productivity growth
- increasing employment opportunity for all.

In 2001, the Department for Work and Pensions was involved, alongside government departments in the other 14 member-states of the European Union, in producing the first National Action Plan on Social Inclusion to be revised every two years (most recently in September 2006). This initiative explicitly links the EU employment and social inclusion agendas through setting targets for the European Structural Funds across four objectives:

- to facilitate participation in employment and access by all to resources, rights, goods and services
- to prevent the risks of social inclusion
- to help the most vulnerable
- to mobilise all relevant bodies.

The Government approach to the delivery of post-16 training is being driven by the Learning and Skills Act 2000, which set up the Learning and Skills Council with 47 branches across the regions. The bedding down of the five London local LSCs has radically shifted the nature of ESF Objective 3 delivery through the further Government innovation of Co-Financing that is heavily dependent on the LSCs for fund distribution.

A bedrock of central government strategy on social inclusion is the formation of Jobcentre Plus, which is now a key Co-Financing Organisation in all the English regions. The specific focus of this CFO is on the disadvantaged in the labour market, under Policy Field 2 of the Objective 3 Programme. This requires the development of strategies that reach beyond claimants to the economically inactive. Most recently, this strategy has been developed in the DWP White Paper – ‘A New Deal for Welfare: Empowering People to Work’ (2006).

In the summer of 2003, the Government launched the National Skills Strategy, 21st Century Skills, which detailed a comprehensive programme to shape learning provision. Significantly, the document begins with the recognition that the Strategy is about social justice and closely acknowledges the role of learning and training provision in delivering the EU Employment Agenda. The framework offered will underpin UK strategy after 2006, when the European Structural Funds will be reformed, under Agenda 2007, to take account of EU Regional Policy in the light of enlargement to 27 member states.

REGIONAL

The political context for the London agenda on economic development was reaffirmed by the election in May 2004 of the Mayor to head the Greater London Assembly and to appoint the London Development Agency. Most recently, prospects have been influenced by the establishment of the London Skills and Employment Board under the Mayor with new powers. Historically, several of the LDA functions have directly impacted on the vocational training and economic regeneration promoted by voluntary and community sector providers:

- leading in developing and implementing regional economic strategies
- promoting sound, physical and economic regeneration
- taking a leading role on EU Structural Funds
- developing business support
- promoting technology transfer
- improving the skills base of the region
- developing the London Skills Agenda into the London Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA)
- promoting the London Skills Commission as the initial Regional Skills Partnership and, thereby, publishing the annual Regional Skills Prospectus and Action Plan 'World Class Skills for the Global City' (September 2005).

London's regional case for additional support from the European Structural Funds was recognised in the Agenda 2000 decision to increase the size of the Objective 2 Programme by 50% against the national trend to reduce Objective 2 by one third.

The three main Priorities are:

- community economic development
- business development and competitiveness
- infrastructure, premises and environment.

Work in London has emphasised the urban strand of EU intervention and suggests the likely pattern of any future access to the European Structural Funds after 2006, under Agenda 2007 negotiations. In the meantime, London hosts an URBAN II European Union Community Initiative in the Stockwell area of North Lambeth.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

During 2005–2006, LVSTC has continued to support London's voluntary and community sector in accessing European funds across several key programmes under the European Structural Funds. At the invitation of governmental agencies, LVSTC has represented voluntary and community sector providers on key cross-sector working groups that will significantly influence future decisions on the shape of training provision and regeneration in London.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

We have participated as full members of:

- **London Skills Commission** – to produce the London Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA) as a strategy to guide all post-16 training in London. We successfully argued for the addition of a specific Strategic Objective 2 on skills for inclusion: “to enable the excluded to access learning and sustainable employment”. We subsequently accepted the invitation to chair the Implementation Group for this Objective. We have been fully engaged in the preparation of the London Skills Prospectus published by the Commission in response to the National Skills Strategy.
- **London Development Agency Basic Skills Forum** – to promote co-ordinated pre-vocational training provision.
- **Greater London Assembly European Forum** – to advise on policy issues arising from London's place in the European Union, including the preparation of a Statement for the 2005 UK Presidency of the EU.
- **London European Programmes Committee** – convened by the Government Office for London to oversee the European Structural Funds in London.
- **GOL Working Groups on European Structural Funds** – to develop the current Objective 3 and Objective 2 Programmes as well as URBAN II in N Lambeth.
- **DWP ESF (England) National Monitoring Committee** – to steer the ESF Programme in England. The involvement of LVSTC at this level has been mediated through our participation in the Third Sector European Network.
- **European Anti-Poverty Network** – to promote the interests of voluntary and community groups combating social exclusion to the European Commission. We chair the EAPN Structural Funds Task Force and were a full member of the EAPN Executive Committee – both are based in Brussels.
- **Social Policy Task Force** – to meet regularly, through EAPN (England), with the DWP to formulate interventions relating to the preparation and implementation of the UK National Action Plan on Social Inclusion.

This representational role has been supported by an extensive range of activities that have kept us in touch with the rich diversity of providers in the voluntary and community sector, including:

- **European Commission 2006 Open Days** – held in Brussels to promote social policy in Europe
- **London Euroscene** – bi-monthly circulation of ESF/ERDF news to contact list of 2500+
- **London 2006 Training Directory** – LVSTC web-site information on nearly 200 groups

Disability Hackney



Disability Hackney is an organisation for disabled people and is managed mainly by people with disabilities. The organisation was initiated by Hackney Council in 1992 and is registered both as a company limited by guarantee and a charity. Since its inception as a small community organisation, Disability Hackney has built an enviable and unrivalled reputation within a relatively short period of time as one of the leading disabled organisations in the London region.

The principal activity of the organisation is to assist disabled people to claim their rights and entitlements. This is done by providing information, advice, representation, lobbying, campaigning and training and employment opportunities. Disabled people from ethnic minority communities accounts for nearly 75% of the organisation's service users.

The Director of Disability Hackney came in contact with LVSTC in 2002 through Kwasi Ofei, a project officer. He has since continued to provide technical support to the organisation in a variety of ways. According to Sanusie Sesay, the Director of Disability Hackney, the impact of LVSTC services and contribution to Disability Hackney growth and development has been phenomenal. The organisation has made quantum leap in its growth and development; resulting in a three fold increase in both turnover (grants) and the number of staff employed over the last four years.

Disability Hackney has become an accredited Job Centre Plus service provider; managing an ESF funded project, which offers disabled people training, advice and guidance and work placements for its beneficiaries. The organisation also has a training contract with the London East Learning and Skills Council under the European Social Fund. Disability Hackney is the lead partner for the two ESF funded projects.

The two projects are worth £750K over two year period ending 2007. As the lead and managing partner of the two projects, Disability Hackney has established an integrated delivery process with its key partners and is now seeking to forge further partnership with 25 major retailers to provide work placements and trails for the project beneficiaries once they have completed their customer service training.

The planned outputs and outcomes for the current ESF funded projects by Job Centre Plus and LSC London East which will end in 2007 will yield the following results:

- 190 disabled learners (starts) supported
- 70 beneficiaries gaining accredited qualifications NVQ level 1–2
- 15 beneficiaries attaining certificate of attendance and progressing to further training and learning
- 23 beneficiaries progressing to employment
- 8 employers engaged to support the project and beneficiaries
- 43 beneficiaries undertaking work placements with employers.

Besides managing ESF funded projects, the organisation has also successfully secured additional funding from Hackney Council to provide advice and guidance to disabled people on how to access public services.

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- **LVSTC Euro-Leaflets and Briefings** – on different aspects of the European Structural Funds
- **SKEIN** – following our policy work on the Strategic Objective 2 Implementation Group of the London Skills Commission, we launched a capacity-building programme for 3000 street-level groups in Spring 2005, under the title Skills for Economic Inclusion Network (SKEIN).

OBJECTIVE 3 (ESF)

2005–2006 saw the further embedding of Co-Financing in London and the instigation of a pan London Learning and Skills Council Programme. Once again, our small team was under pressure to serve the sector in accessing these ESF Funds under considerable competition from private and public sector providers. Recent rounds have also marked a strategic shift towards larger tenders, having to be delivered by partnerships and consortiums.

Despite these significant challenges, the LVSTC Objective 3 ESF Team provided a broad range of support services.

The Team provided 65 conferences and seminars during the year. The activity realised under this output included regional and sub-regional information events aimed at supporting the voluntary and community sector providers:

- 40 application and guidance events, project management, issue-based seminars for capacity building, basic skills and soft outcomes,
- networking and partnership as well as strategic consultation events
- Our 'Getting On, Holding On, Moving On' seminar series enabled us to market test and trial a range of seminar and workshop events – aimed at supporting the quality and organisational development need of the sector. Subjects included: Business Planning, Investors in People, Towards Quality, Capacity Building, Preparing for [ALI] Inspection, Sustainable Development, Delivering Equal Opportunities.

LVSTC provided the only London-wide information service on all CFO rounds and this proved invaluable to the sector in accessing up-to-date information on Co-Financing:

- 10 continually updated pages were dedicated to this CFO activity on the LVSTC website (www.lvstc.org.uk)
- We handled nearly 1416 exchanges via the Helpline including telephone support as well as interactive help and guidance given by e-mail.

Our database continues to expand and contains information on 1156 projects and 4600 organisations. This GOL-funded ChangeUp Project has resulted in an enhanced research and development function. Intensive support has included:

- 198 one-to-one surgeries covering a range of topics, including: applications and appeals for sector providers to ESF Co-Financing Organisations; support to organisations; and advice for groups seeking alternative funding sources.
- 10 visits to providers' venues and sites which have focused on the needs of groups to identify alternative funding sources due to the prescriptive nature of the CFO rounds.

TABLE 1 OBJECTIVE 3: Policy Fields and Priorities of the Programme

	National %	London %
Active Labour Market Policies	25	25
AIM 1 Secure the reintegration of the long term unemployed into the labour market		
AIM 2 Prevent long term unemployment among adults and young people		
MEASURE 1 Providing advice and guidance (10%)		
MEASURE 2 Improve work prospects of target groups (90%)		
Promoting Equal Opportunities and Social Inclusion	26	35
AIM 3 Tackle the problem of labour market exclusion experienced by specific groups in society		
AIM 4 Ensure the young people are adequately equipped for the world of work		
MEASURE 1 Widen access to basic skills provision (20%)		
MEASURE 2 Help people with many disadvantages to improve their job prospects (75%)		
MEASURE 3 To combat discrimination in the labour market (5%)		
Lifelong Learning	26	25
AIM 5 Promote a commitment to workforce development and lifelong learning among employers and employees		
MEASURE 1 Promote wider access and participation in lifelong learning (70%)		
MEASURE 2 Improve employability through directing and supporting lifelong learning programmes (30%)		
Adaptability and Entrepreneurship	14	10
AIM 6 Sustain and enhance employability among employed people		
MEASURE 1 Update/upgrade employees' vocational skills (40%)		
MEASURE 2 Identify and meet emerging skills shortages (45%)		
MEASURE 3 Encourage entrepreneurship of individuals and competitiveness of business (15%)		
Promoting the position of women in the labour market	7	5
AIM 7 Promote gender equality within the workplace and in the labour market		
MEASURE 1 Improve access to learning (70%)		
MEASURE 2 Research into issues related to gender discrimination in employment (30%)		
Total	98	100

Our capacity building work was spearheaded by the well-regarded London East Action for Development (LEAD) Project involving the active participation of nine Borough-level networks serviced by LVSTC. Information was disseminated through a vigorous Newsletter and regular visits were undertaken to the various regional groupings.

In addition to our support and delivery functions, we continued to represent and engage the sector in responding to key policy issues. We have convened focus groups and responded to key documents including the National Strategic Reference Framework that will guide the next ESF and ERDF Programmes.

OBJECTIVE 2 (ERDF AND ESF)

This Technical Assistance work, led by ERDF, is concentrated across 95 wards in 13 London Boroughs with supplementary ERDF activity focused on Stockwell in the north of the London Borough of Lambeth, under the URBAN II Programme.

Key achievements during the period included:

- we organised 19 workshops attended by representatives from voluntary sector organisations. The majority of these workshops provided in depth coverage of a wide range of issues linked to the management of projects co-funded by the Structural Funds (ERDF and ESF) under the London Objective 2 Programme 2000–2006. A number of workshops were delivered as part of the Priority 1 bidding round which ran in the first half of 2005. They constituted a comprehensive training package for assessors from voluntary and community sector groups invited by the Programme's Area Partnerships to take an active role in the scoring of applications for funding under Priority 1: 'Community Economic Development'. Workshops were tailored for partnership projects led by voluntary sector organisations. Others were devoted to broader issues such as the Cross-Cutting Themes or the preparation of succession strategies for projects, with particular reference to the Readiness Assessment Tool (RAT) recently commissioned by the Government Office for London (GOL).
- we delivered 22 surgeries. These have tended to focus on project development issues during the Priority 1 bidding round in the first half of 2005 and on project management issues since then. An increasing proportion of our one-to-one information and guidance work has been delivered through project visits taking place on the premises of the projects themselves, rather than surgeries delivered at LVSTC offices. Although this has been more resource intensive, it reflects the preference of our voluntary and community sector clients who lack time to travel to the LVSTC offices. Visiting the organisations also offers the opportunity to examine their systems and processes in depth and to better target the assistance we provide.
- we conducted 55 visits to projects led by, or including, voluntary and community sector organisations. Given the exhaustion of significant funds available under the London Objective 2 Programme following the last Priority 1 bidding round in 2005, our support is now primarily delivered to organisations that have been granted EU funds.
- through our telephone, fax and e-mail helpline, we have received and processed approximately 2,500 queries. These now tend to arise increasingly from project holders who require detailed and specific advice as they progress on the learning curve of their project lifecycle. A number of enquiries have also related to the availability of EU funds and the potential synergies and cross-over between the Objective 2 and Objective 3



TABLE 2 FUNDING PRIORITIES AND MEASURES
London Objective 2 2000–2006 Programme Complement

	ERDF	ESF
PRIORITY ONE Community Economic Development		
MEASURE 1.1 Building Economically Sustainable Communities	●	
MEASURE 1.2 Developing Community Businesses and Infrastructure	●	
MEASURE 1.3 Community Skills Development		●
PRIORITY TWO Business Development and Competitiveness		
MEASURE 2.1 Advice and Mentoring for SME Startups	●	
MEASURE 2.2 SME Business Development Programmes	●	
MEASURE 2.3 Funding for Growth	●	
MEASURE 2.4 Adopting New Technology, E-commerce and ICT	●	
MEASURE 2.5 Product, Process and Technology Innovation	●	
MEASURE 2.6 Environmental Technology	●	
MEASURE 2.7 Developing a Competitive Workforce		●
PRIORITY THREE Infrastructure, Premises and Environment		
MEASURE 3.1 Strategic Sites, Infrastructure and Environment	●	
MEASURE 3.2 Expansion and Improvement of Premises for SMEs	●	
MEASURE 3.3 Marketing	●	
MEASURE 3.4 Ensuring Local Benefit		●
PRIORITY FOUR Technical Assistance		
MEASURE 4.1 Enhancing Programme Management	●	
MEASURE 4.2 Other Technical Assistance	●	
MEASURE 4.3 Enhancing Programme Management		●
MEASURE 4.4 Other Technical Assistance		●

programmes, particularly in the context of several major bidding rounds being announced in the Objective 3 programme in late 2005 and early 2006.

- we produced 51 information briefings in the form of e-mail updates, fact sheets, leaflets, web pages, project profiles and articles published in our newsletter *London Euroscene*. These electronic and paper briefings have allowed us to keep regularly up to date our constituency of voluntary sector groups involved in the Objective 2 Programme. In addition, we have continued to promote the study of projects funded by the European Social Fund element of the London Objective 2 Programme entitled 'I'm Simply Learning Much More'. This survey of projects managers and beneficiaries confirms the positive contribution of ESF in the Objective 2 Programme which is primarily funded by the ERDF. The study was well received by the Government Office for London (GOL) and the Programme's Area Partnerships and is available on our website.

- we also completed the Community Sector Support Scheme, under ERDF Technical Assistance for the URBAN II Programme in N. Lambeth. Help was provided to 72 projects through 120 surgeries, project visits and/or attendance at 12 training workshops. 17 voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations with no previous ERDF funding knowledge were assisted to access and run projects funded by ERDF through provision of intensive one-to-one advice, guidance and practical assistance. A further 17 organisations received advice and assistance re EU and other funding opportunities.

SKEIN The Skills for Economic Inclusion Network began delivery in the spring of 2005. The Project was the result of LVSTC work on the London FRESA Strategic Objective 2 Implementation Group. The aim was to develop a London-wide network of small voluntary and community sector organisations supporting excluded people back into learning and/or employment. The network ensured that these small groups were kept up-to-date regarding the regional skills and employment agenda. Figure 1 shows the range of disadvantaged groups that SKEIN member organisations work with.

Since the outset of the project the network has grown steadily. By the end of the 2005–2006 financial year membership had reached 1,239 and by September 2006 membership stood at 2,316. A breakdown of the spread of members across London by borough can be seen at Figure 2. LVSTC remains optimistic that the target of 3000 members will be achieved by the close of the initial phase.

SKEIN provided the following services to all members. Figures in parentheses indicate the volume produced/delivered at the end of September 2006.

- Monthly E-bulletins (18)
- Bi-monthly Newsletters (10)
- Helpline (4,741)
- Members-only Website (1)
- Funding Workshops (19)
- Conferences (6)
- Publications (7)
- Delivery Providers' Toolkit (2,316)
- Learning Passports (2,316)

In addition to these services, SKEIN also offered members the opportunity to attend training courses, provided free of charge by the Network. Training Needs Analyses (TNAs) were available to members who required help in identifying what training and support their organisation needs. 136 TNAs have been delivered to date. The following training courses have been offered to members since the beginning of the project. The figures in parentheses indicate how many of these courses have been run to date.

- Guidance Awards (5)
- Community Leadership Awards (5)
- Learning Coaches (5)
- Promoting Learning Opportunities (4)
- Building a Learning Organisation (1)

- Strengthening Existing Provision (3)
- Setting up ESOL Provision (1)
- Towards Quality (9)
- Developing Ability to Deliver (4)

As the Network increased in size, the interest in these courses continued to grow. By September 2006, 250 places had been taken up on of these courses and we continue to take bookings for courses to the end of March 2007.

In addition to the Members of the SKEIN Network, we have also recruited 109 Associate Members. SKEIN Associates are capacity building, second-tier or umbrella organisations from any sector who offer services to small VCS groups. SKEIN offered these organisations the opportunity to network with members, promoted their services and attended SKEIN events. The details of their services also appeared on the SKEIN website in a searchable Directory which allowed members to more easily identify local or specialist support across London.

SKEIN has been a large partnership project. LVSTC has been the lead partner and co-ordinates the delivery undertaken by LVSTC and seven other Delivery Partners. Each of these Partners has fostered a Learning Hub, a cluster of four neighbouring boroughs. Figure 3 shows the geographical location of the SKEIN Learning Hubs and details the delivery partners that look after each area.

In addition to the Delivery Partners, there have also been 12 Strategic Partners who form an Advisory Group for the Project. These include London Voluntary Services Council, Off the Streets and into Work, London Open College Network, National Institute of Adult and Continuing Learning, Association of Colleges (London), London Libraries Development Agency, London Higher, SE Region Trade Union Congress, Faith Regen UK, Archives Museums and Libraries (London) and The FIRM (Merton).

All partners, delivery and strategic, have been able to take advantage of the SKEIN research fund which has been used to support six SKEIN Pilots – small pieces of research focusing on aspects of the skills for economic inclusion programme in London and complementing the wider work of the SKEIN Project. The Pilots chosen were:

- London Public Libraries as Community Learning Hubs.
- SKEIN – Employers of the Economically Excluded?
- Progression to mainstream from current Entry Level programmes in literacy and numeracy.
- The Developing Local-Global Perspectives in Economic and Social Inclusion.
- Exploring the links between language and employment in relation to people for whom English is not their first language.
- Merton Social Enterprise Research.

All pilots will be completed by the end of 2006 and reports of each will be made available to the SKEIN membership and beyond.

GHARWEG

Advice, Training and Careers Centre



GHARWEG has been in existence for the past 21 years. The organisation was set up by a group of Ghanaian political exiles in August 1985 to meet the social and economic needs of their members, especially those who needed help and advice in accessing training, employment, housing and welfare benefits. It has since become a registered charity with an international dimension and has opened its doors to other migrant groups and refugee communities. The organisation now draws its membership and beneficiaries from different nationalities and diverse cultural backgrounds that access its services.

The principal aim of the organisation is to provide quality advice, employment training and vocational guidance, which is targeted at Black and Minority Ethnic people especially those from the African communities to support their integration into the British society and improve their quality of life.

GHARWEG currently runs multi-tasks projects including ESF project targeted mainly at refugees, asylum seekers, black and minority communities.

The activities of the organisation includes, general advice in welfare benefits, health, housing and immigration targeted at black and ethnic minorities communities, especially of African origin in the UK; employment training courses and English classes for non native speakers; vocational guidance and counselling; development awareness activities with community groups and capacity building small community groups.

Over the past 5 years, GHARWEG has run a number of ESF funded projects; the latest project was funded by London Central LSC. Besides the ESF funded projects the organisation also runs other services for example, advice and guidance and counselling for the benefit of its service users.

The current ESF project is running from January 2005 – March 2007 and its planned outputs/outcomes include:

- 45 beneficiaries accessing IT/Internet and access to education training and completing and gaining certificate in the new CLAIT for IT users
- 50 beneficiaries gaining accredited ESOL and basic skills qualifications up to NVQ level 3 or equivalent.
- 45 beneficiaries progressing into further training/learning
- 15 beneficiaries progressing into employment.

Besides the ESF funded project, GHARWEG has projected to achieve the following outputs and outcomes for the non-related ESF projects that it runs for this financial year.

GHARWEG is a member organisation of LVSTC and according to the Director, Yen Nyeya, "LVSTC have always responded promptly to our calls for support and assistance whenever we needed them. " Yen said that, " GHARWEG has had a long term relationship with LVSTC and has benefited immensely from being a member organisation."

Contact

Yen Nyeya

Director

Multi-Purpose

Resource Centre

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5 Westminster Bridge Rd

London W1

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F 020 7620 1431

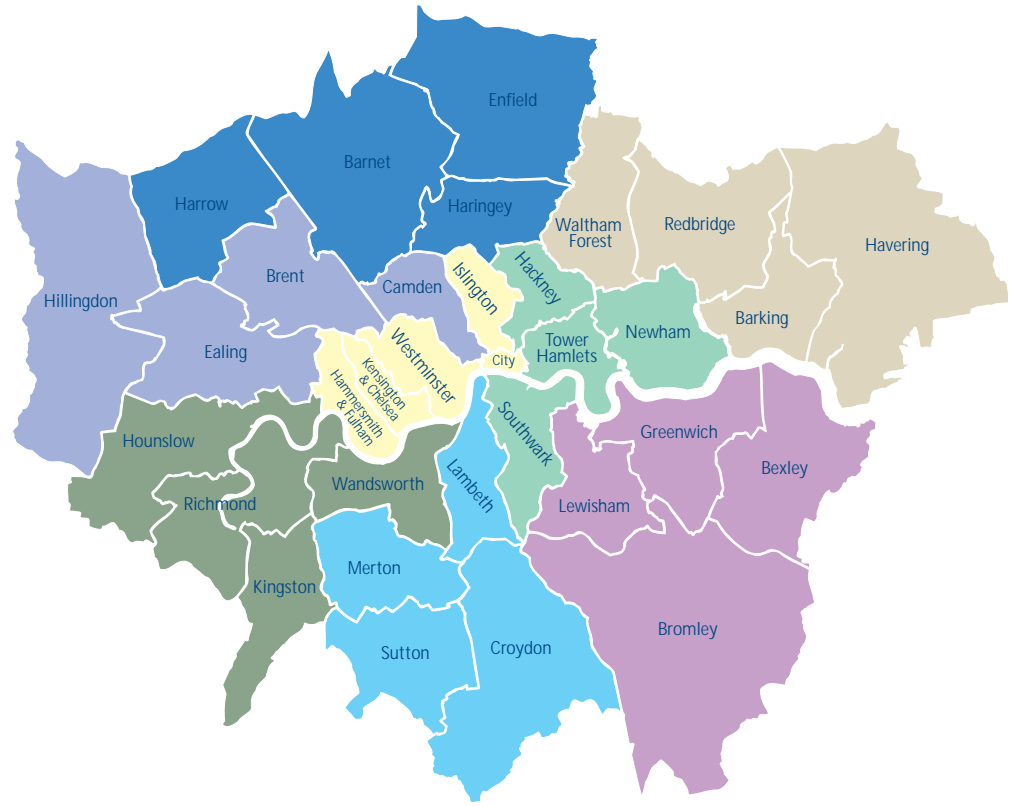
Figure 1 – the table shows the number of SKEIN members working with each of the listed disadvantaged client groups

People with Disabilities	770	Refugees/Asylum Seekers	1,129
Homeless	440	Women's Group	874
Ex Offenders	229	People Over 50	697
Drugs and Alcohol Abusers	338	Employees in SMEs	178
Long Term Unemployed	763	Young People 13–17	1,085
Ethnic Minorities	1,674	Young People 16–19	1,192
Lone Parents	890	Employees Requiring up-skilling	371
Unemployed requiring up-skilling	1,002	People with ESOL/Literacy/ Numeracy Needs	843

Figure 2 – the table shows numbers of SKEIN members in each London borough in September 2006

Hub A		Hub B		Hub C		Hub D	
Brent	89	Barnet	53	Hammersmith & Fulham	62	Hackney	125
Camden	95	Enfield	60	Islington	132	Newham	164
Ealing	77	Haringey	153	Kensington & Chelsea	25	Southwark	83
Hillingdon	40	Harrow	32	Westminster	36	Tower Hamlets	142
Hub E		Hub F		Hub G		Hub H	
Hounslow	42	Croydon	97	Bexley	9	Barking & Dagenham	120
Kingston	18	Lambeth	127	Bromley	16	Havering	24
Richmond	8	Merton	30	Greenwich	94	Redbridge	65
Wandsworth	22	Sutton	6	Lewisham	130	Waltham Forest	136

Figure 3 – SKEIN map with partners details



- | | | | |
|----------|--|----------|--|
| A | Camden Training Network | E | Refugee Women's Association |
| B | North London Training and Employment Network | F | London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium (LVSTC) |
| C | Islington Training Network | G | Workers' Educational Association |
| D | Hackney Training and Employment Network | H | The Training Providers' Network (Barking and Dagenham) |

CEEP The Community Economic Enhancement Project (CEEP) is a new LVSTC capacity building project designed to meet the challenges of black and ethnic minority and refugee organisations to sustain growth and development. CEEP is partly funded by the Big Lottery Fund for three years and also match-funded by ESF through the LVSTC Technical Assistance contract with GOL.

The Project has been running since January 2006 and is aimed at organisations that have grown from being micro-groups to small organisations. These groups are at a critical point in their development and are now experiencing difficulties in managing growth and change.

The overall project activities include the following:

- diagnostic reviews to assess and advise groups on the effectiveness of their operational, management and financial systems
- ICT and Training needs analysis on organisations and their core staff and providing appropriate training
- workshops and seminars on various management topics and techniques.
- telephone helpline and online support
- follow-up visits to groups at their premises to aid problem solving and one-to-one training, using their organisation as the learning vehicle
- publications in the form of updates and briefing notes on various management topics.

The following activities and outputs have so far been achieved:

- One partnership brokerage facilitated to help a group to manage a translational project
- 45 groups identified as potential beneficiaries and 25 have been successfully enrolled onto the Project
- Seven workshops conducted during the LDA and South London Connexions ESF bidding rounds to help the access ESF funding
- 23 diagnostic reviews have been conducted to assess and advise groups on the effectiveness of their operational, management and financial systems
- 25 systems management workshop were conducted for the groups enrolled
- 15 groups have been given telephone helpline and online support
- 10 follow up visits have been made to groups at their premises to aid problem solving and one-to-one training, using their organisation as the learning vehicle.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Awarded IIP status in 2004, our success in delivering the LVSTC promise has depended on ability to work in three complementary areas:

- membership
- management
- staffing.

MEMBERSHIP

As a member-led organisation financially dependent on Technical Assistance from the European Structural Funds, LVSTC has continued to be subject to an internal tension:

- **accountability** – requiring a definable democratic structure of Membership
- **inclusion** – requiring a service delivery system available to all (potential) London provider groups in the voluntary and community sector.

This tension is reflected in the development of three LVSTC lists:

- **members** – voluntary groups registered as full Members
- **clients** – groups/agencies offering information for services
- **contacts** – groups/agencies on LVSTC mailing list.

These lists have been the basis for the authority with which LVSTC has acted as a strategic partner in the development of EU programmes in London.

Given our Members' active engagement in vocational support of the unemployed and the vulnerable employed, LVSTC has maintained a sharp focus on issues related to vocational training and guidance under the European Social Fund and regeneration under the European Regional Development Fund.

During the period, we have maintained a positive attitude to voluntary and community groups working with the vulnerable employed as well as to voluntary/community groups involved in wider local economic regeneration. As a result, we have retained the Membership eligibility requirement for new non-charitable applicants to submit an organisational statement on combating social exclusion.

Through our commitment to capacity-building initiatives, we have continued to attract into Associate status those local, informal cross-sector networks, to which voluntary/community groups are making a contribution and from which they are securing significant resources. This status is also available to those statutory and private (ie. non-voluntary) agencies seeking to use our services.

U Can Do IT

Enabled project



“Now I am able to do my own shopping online and can talk to my friends via messenger. Nothing unusual in that you may say for people in this modern age but for people who are blind, deaf and/or disabled these skills mean a new life.”

U can Do IT was founded in 1998 with a mission to train blind, deaf and disabled people to use computers in their own homes. This is a unique service and U can Do IT argues the only way in which disabled people get the practice they need to retain the teaching they have received and ultimately to enter the computer age and therewith ease their lives.

Enabled is a project resulting from a successful ESF application with support from LVSTC to LSC London North under Measure 3.2 Lifelong Learning for a total of £197,000. The programme covers the North London boroughs Barnet, Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest and is open to all blind, deaf and disabled people. It commenced in April 2005 and will run over a two year period. It aims to demonstrate how empowering computer literacy can be.

To deliver the programme U can Do IT is in partnership with different organisations. Recycle IT provides learners with free recycled computers configured to the student's specific needs. Specialised freelance tutors from U can Do IT visit the beneficiaries and teach them one-to-one basic computer and internet skills. The National Extension College offers on-line further education courses to students who wish to progress and Employment

Opportunities delivers free employment training or job placements.

At the end of the programme U can Do IT hopes that 50 physical or sensory disabled learners will have recycled computers in their homes and will be able to use e-mail, internet, word and other application. 15 will have basic skills qualifications, 10 will gain NVQ level 2 and 10 will receive job training. In September 2006 the outcome already is promising: 50 beneficiaries have gained ICT qualifications, eight have basic skills qualifications and two are in employment. Considering that the programme has still more than six months to run this is a real achievement.

At the moment U can Do IT only covers London but encouraged by the success of their work they want to extend their service throughout the United Kingdom as soon as adequate funding and structures are in place.

Contact

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Marketing and
Development
Manager
U Can Do IT
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F 020 7730 6822
E info@ucandoit.org.uk

www.ucandoit.org.uk

MANAGEMENT

The elected LVSTC Board of Members has continued to meet bi-monthly. At the outset of the period covered by this Report, Board Members were:

Mike Webster	<i>Action for Blind People</i>	
Joe Billington	<i>ELATT</i>	
Kevin Belcher	<i>Pecan</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
Abdul Mukit	<i>Boundary Community School</i>	
Greg Cohn	<i>Tower Hamlets CDA</i>	
Winston Castello	<i>Camden ITEC</i>	<i>Vice Chair</i>
Sona Mahtani	<i>Haringey Training Network</i>	
Hindy Lew	<i>Vista Training</i>	
Simin Azimi	<i>Refugee Womens Association</i>	<i>Chair</i>
Clive Taylor	<i>Urban Regeneration</i>	

STAFFING

LVSTC has delivered services through four linked Staff Teams:

Directorate

- **internal** co-ordination of management systems, including finance, and management of SKEIN Project
- **external** co-ordination of strategic policy development of LVSTC, especially in relation to the progression of the London Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action and of the UK National Action Plans on Employment and on Social Inclusion.

ESF Delivery

- **core** support for groups seeking to access and run ESF finance across London for training the unemployed and vulnerable employed
- **outreach** support for organisational capacity building via the sub-regional LEAD Project in the East sub-region.

ESF Communications

- **internal** presentation of LVSTC policies especially with regard to Quality Assurance, as well as development and maintenance of ICT systems and database
- **external** production of publications and co-ordination of general publicity and marketing.

ERDF

- **core** support for groups running ERDF (and linked ESF) finance in the London Objective 2 area for the disadvantaged in and out of the labour market by developing enterprise and local infrastructure
- **outreach** support for organisational capacity building especially via sub-regional structure targeted on 4 Area Partnerships. During the latter part of the period, this has included the URBAN II Community Initiative Project in Stockwell, N. Lambeth.

Directorate

Ray Phillips *Director*
Bill Burke *Finance Officer*

SKEIN

Julia McGerty *Co-ordinator (Strategy)*
Graham Moore (*left 2006*) *Co-ordinator (Operations)*
Geoff Robinson *Communications Senior Adviser*
Ian Foster *Development Officer*
Misbah Javed *Hub Worker*
Dorrett Hobbs-Daley *Hub Worker*
Orishe Olugbo *Hub Worker*
Chris Swift *Hub Worker*
Michelle Curtis *Hub Worker*
Aadil Hanif *Hub Worker*
Andrew Solyty *Hub Worker*

ESF Delivery

Stewart Goldring *Team Leader and Deputy Director*
Adesola Osinowo *Employment Senior Adviser*
Karin Podschun *Administrative Officer*

LEAD (to March 2006)

Barbara Deason *Technical Adviser*
Sandi Rance *Technical Adviser*
Clare Engel *Communications Adviser*

CEEP

Kwasi Ofei *Team Leader*
Clare Engel (*left 2006*) *Training Adviser*
Jacqueline Black *IT Adviser*
Margaret Kato-Dungu *Administrative Officer*

ESF Communications

Steve White *Team Leader*
Ingrid Babcock *ICT Co-ordinator*
Humera Gondal *Information and Publicity Officer*
Siaffa Bunduka *Administrative Officer*

ERDF

Francois Josserand *Team Leader*
Angela Heap *Regeneration Senior Adviser*
Wayne Deane *ESF Adviser*
Ian O Sullivan *Administrative Officer*
Denni Turp *Technical Consultant*

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2006

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2006 £	Total 2005 £
Incoming Resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds:</i>				
Voluntary income:				
Grants for advice, information, training, policy and networking	483,078	799,324	1,282,402	1,191,397
Investment Income	688	–	688	693
Other incoming resources	16,156	–	16,156	8,076
Total Incoming Resources	499,922	799,324	1,299,246	1,200,166
Resources Expended				
Charitable activities	383,940	832,034	1,215,974	1,070,759
Governance Costs	126,903	–	126,903	74,989
Total Resources Expended	510,843	832,034	1,342,877	1,145,748
Net Income/(outgoing) resources	(10,921)	(32,710)	(43,631)	54,418
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	26,588	51,873	78,461	24,043
Total funds carried forward	15,667	19,163	34,830	78,461
Less: Restricted Funds			19,163	51,873
Designated Fund			7,000	7,000
General Funds			8,667	19,588

The restricted funds represent funds which have been given for particular purposes in connection with the provision of advice, information and training in line with the charity's objects.

The general fund represents funds available to the Executive Committee to use for the general purposes of the charity.

Designated funds represent general funds that the Executive Committee has set aside to meet future statutory redundancy payments.

Warning Statement

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium. For further information the full accounts, the report of the independent auditors on those accounts and the annual report of the Executive Committee should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from the Company Secretary at LVSTC, Bromley Hall, 43 Gillender Street, London E14 6RN.

**Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2006**

	2006		2005	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets		32,495		15,985
Current Assets:				
Debtors	149,172		146,518	
Cash at bank and in hand	41		56,176	
	149,213		202,694	
Creditors:				
Amounts falling due within one year	146,878		140,218	
Net Current Assets		2,335		62,476
Net Assets		34,830		78,461
The funds of the charity:				
Restricted funds		19,163		51,873
Unrestricted funds:				
Designated		7,000		7,000
General		8,667		19,588
		34,830		78,461

Executive Committee's Statement

We confirm that these summarised financial statements are a summary of information from the full unqualified accounts which were approved by the Executive Committee on 19 September 2006. A copy of the full accounts of the charity, upon which the auditors have reported without qualification, will be delivered to the Charity Commission.

Independent Auditors' Statement

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the charity.

Respective Responsibilities of executive committee and auditors

The Executive Committee are responsible for preparing the summarised financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charity SORP. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full financial statements and the Executive Committee's Report. We also read the other information included in the summarised annual report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summarised financial statement.

Basis of Opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The auditors' statement on the summary financial statement' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the Summarised Financial Statement is consistent with the Full Financial Statements and the Executive Committee's Report of London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium for the year ended 31 March 2006.

Raffingers Stuart, Chartered Certified Accountants, Registered Auditors, 19–20 Bourne Court, Southend Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 8HD.

FUNDING

Over the period, LVSTC has sustained major funding from a number of sources to consolidate project activity:

- **Association of London Government (now London Councils)**
(annually renewable to June 2007)
to underpin the Strategic and Technical Support Services of all four LVSTC Staff Teams in promoting (pre-)vocational training and economic regeneration by voluntary and community groups under the European Structural Funds.
- **ESF/ERDF Technical Assistance via GOL**
(biennially renewable)
to enhance LVSTC support for voluntary/community organisations seeking to exploit the European Structural Funds in London.
- **ERDF Technical Assistance via Lambeth Council**
(two years to June 2006)
to enhance LVSTC support for voluntary/community organisations seeking to use the European Regional Development Fund in the URBAN II area of Stockwell, N. Lambeth
- **City Parochial Foundation**
(two years to June 2006)
to help LVSTC focus technical support on street-level service providers in the URBAN II area of Stockwell, N. Lambeth
- **Learning and Skills Council London East**
(two years to March 2006)
to support LVSTC in undertaking the LEAD Project
- **Learning and Skills Council Pan-London**
(two years to March 2007)
to support LVSTC in leading the SKEIN Project and in sustaining the delivery partnership
- **Big Lottery Fund**
(three years to December 2008)
to support LVSTC in developing the Community Economic Enhancement Project for smaller voluntary/community sector providers as an integral part of the ESF Objective 3 Technical Assistance programme

We are extremely grateful for the support that the above funders have committed to LVSTC.

Opportunity For All

A SKEIN Member



Opportunity For All has been a member of SKEIN since July 2005. Lucy Lewis says that she has found membership of the network very useful. She has been able to network with other members of SKEIN, which has been very beneficial. The newsletters and e-bulletins have helped her to be more aware of what is happening in the voluntary sector. "I felt very isolated before but through SKEIN I have been encouraged to participate more through networking."

A Training Needs Analysis was carried out at the organisation by SKEIN in 2005 and this was found to be very useful by the organisation. Since then Lucy has attended the Learning Coach course, which she was very impressed by. She said the course helped her to re-visit her teaching skills acquired when she was a lecturer. Since attending the course she has been able to implement what she has learned to help the learners at the centre.

Opportunity For All is a voluntary organisation based in Mitcham town centre in the Surrey area of the London Borough of Merton. The organisation's main areas of work are IT training, Internet Access to the general public, work experience placements for the local colleges; CV writing, publication, design work, English classes and counselling.

Since the organisation has been in existence a good client base has been built from the local community. The organisation is used by a wide range of clients accessing services from counselling to IT training. Opportunity For All has been able to reach the very hard to reach groups in the area of Mitcham and has been instrumental in helping individuals gain skills and employment.

The Opportunity For All Centre has an Internet Café, which is open to members of

the public and provides a warm and welcoming atmosphere. The organisation aims to create a social environment, a community place, where people can interact, and access information that will be useful for them. The Centre particularly wants to reach those who have given up on ever being able to use the internet either for learning, social interaction or for fun.

Lucy, the Managing Director, is always on hand to provide basic IT skills training and support to users. She says that the organisation is unique because of the extra personal touch that is given when supporting the clients – "We care about what happens". A user at the Centre who is studying psychology said, "I don't know what I would have done without Opportunity For All. Lucy has helped me academically with my course work, she has helped me in a personal development capacity".

Opportunity For All would eventually like to become a college. The centre has already started this process by providing IT training in a fully integrated learning and business environment. The centre will specialise in providing learners with first class coaching in their chosen field of study. The Centre offers work experience in office skills and customer service skills to local students.

Contact

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E opportuforall@yahoo.co.uk

“ The key challenge facing the London Skills Agenda is to achieve an effective balance between the vocational demands of those working in London and the vocational needs of Londoners living in London and, thereby, recognising that they are not always one and the same. Such a recognition implies that employer-led strategies need to be complemented by sub-regional, area-based initiatives with leadership by residents ... ”

LONDON'S LEARNING CAPITAL – A TALE OF TWO CITIES | LVSTC, February 1999

LVSTC MEMBERS

198 Gallery Education and Training
Account 3
Action for Blind People
Adun Society
Africa Development Network (AND)
Agenda for Community Development
Alcohol Recovery Project
Alhijara Somali Community Association
Arachne Greek Cypriot Women's Group
Ascent 21
Bail for Immigration Detainees
Barnabas Workshops
Baytree Centre Training
Bede House Association
BEM Community Enterprise Business
Federation Partnership
Better Life for Women and Families
Boundary Community School
Brent Association of Disabled People
British Refugee Council (Training
and Employment)
Camden ITEC
Camden Jobtrain
Cardboard Citizens
Cardinal Hume Centre
Caris Haringey
Centrepont
Chats Palace Arts Centre and Venue
Church Army
Citizen Advocacy Information and Training
City and Hackney MIND
Clapton Community Housing Trust
Clean Break
Confederation of Indian Organisations
Connection At St Martin's (CSTM)
Connections Communications Centre
Education Action International (Formerly
RETAS/World University Service)
ELATT
Ellingham Employment Services
EnRe
Fairbridge in London
Film and Television Freelance Training (FT2)
First Rung Ltd
Free Form Arts Trust
Friends of the Family Association
Ghanaian Women Welfare Project
GLAD
Greenwich Community Law Centre
Greenwich Co-operative Development
Agency
Hackney Community Transport
Haringey Training Network
House of Antoine NVO Training Facility Ltd
IMECE Turkish Speaking Women's Group
Instant Muscle (Head Office)
Interlink Foundation, The
Iranian Association
Irish Centre Housing
Islington Enterprise Agency
Lambeth Women's Workshop Ltd
Latin American Disabled People's Project
Law Centres Federation
League of British Muslims
LEAP
Leap Confronting Conflict
Local Accountancy Project
London College of Community Development
Studies and Computer Sciences
London Oriental Academy
London West Training Services
L'Ouverture Trust Ltd
MDF The Bipolar Organisation
Merton Somali Community Organisation
Migrant Training
Migrants Resource Centre
Ming-Ai (London) Institute
Neighbourhood Development and Research
Project (NDRP)
New Direction Training Centre
New Step
Newham Action Against Domestic Violence
NEWTEC
North Downham Training Project
North East London Strategic Health
Authority
North London ITEC
North London Partnership Consortium
Notting Dale Technology Centre
One Love Training Centre
Organisation of Blind African Caribbeans
Park Royal Partnership Ltd
Peabody Trust
Pecan Ltd
Peter Bedford Housing Association
Power-Age Christian College
Refugee Women's Association
Royal National Institute for Deaf People
(RNID)
Scherazarde
Sebert Road Training Centre
Selby Trust
Skilltrain
Shape London
Smart (St Mary Abbots Rehabilitation
and Training Projects)
Somali Business Association
SOVA
Spitalfields Housing Association
Stifford TJRS – TRA Community Centre
St Mary's Centre Ltd
Sutton Centre for Voluntary Service Charity
Company
Tamil Refugee Training and Education Centre
(TRTEC)
Tomorrow's People Trust
Tower Hamlets Co-operative Development
Agency
Tower Hamlets Playgroups and Under
5's Association
Training For Life
UnLtd (Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs)
Vista Training
Waltham Forest Disability Resource Centre
Waltham Forest Somali and Cultural
Association
Walworth Garden Farm
Westminster Advocacy Service for Senior
Residents
Wise Owls
Woodland Centre Trust – Beckton Activities
Centre
Workbase Training
Yeldall Homeless Projects
Young Builders Trust

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