



Annual Report 2020/21

Hedgecock Community Centre LTD

Company No: 10751294

Charity Number: 1180699

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Email: Info(@hedgecockcentre.org.uk

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Tel: 0330 321 0173

Banker: Barclays Bank PLC

Directors:

Trustees who are directors under company law at the date of the report are:

Mr. Yousuf Hussain Khan (Chairperson)
Mr. Tojomul Ali (Secretary)
Mr. Jamil Al -Deen Al-Faradhi (Treasurer)
Mr. Nazir Ali
Mr. Aktar Ahmed
Mr. Harun Miah
Mr. Somsul Islam
Mrs. Sayira Begum
Mr. Shahanur Rahman
Mr. Shaheryaar Baig
Mr. Mohammed Ali Hassan
Mr. Ziaul Hoque

Auditors:

Quilfords Accountancy and Taxation 113 Romford Road
London E134LY

ABOUT US

The Hedgecock Community Centre (HCC) is a voluntary community organisation established within the Longbridge Ward, Upney, Barking & Dagenham in February 2017.

During the years, the centre has been working with service providers and volunteers to provide various activities and events which have benefitted the local community. These vary from health and fitness to social groups and gatherings which are open to the diverse community. The centre has been running for over 4 years and will continue developing new projects and services for the community of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

HCC is a community-led organisation, with a strong ethos and an emphasis on engaging and involving local people. HCC recognises that local people are a valuable resource and key to running a successful centre. The consistent effort to engage the community has resulted in a strong network of competent volunteers who are actively involved in its management and delivery of projects.

The year 2020 - 2021 was extremely challenging in terms of providing events and services to the local community. Due to the pandemic and government restrictions, we were unable to conduct our regular activities and had to restrict events occurring in the centre. Once the pandemic is over, we will continue providing similar services and introduce new projects for the wider community to participate in.

VISION

To be the flagship community centre for Barking & Dagenham.

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the quality of life for local people by offering excellent services which provide a range of educational, recreational, cultural, and social opportunities.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

With the support of the local authority and the community, we aim to be a holistic service provider and develop HCC as a Centre of excellence and make it 'a hub for the community'.

We aim to engage and empower the local community to be involved in building a broader community organisation that can support and contribute to meeting social, recreational, and cultural needs.

We continue to strive to be the flagship community centre for Barking & Dagenham. We are already seeing the fruits of our labour and continue to have the shared vision of a community hub that improves the quality of life for local people by offering excellent services that provide a range of educational, recreational, cultural, and social opportunities.

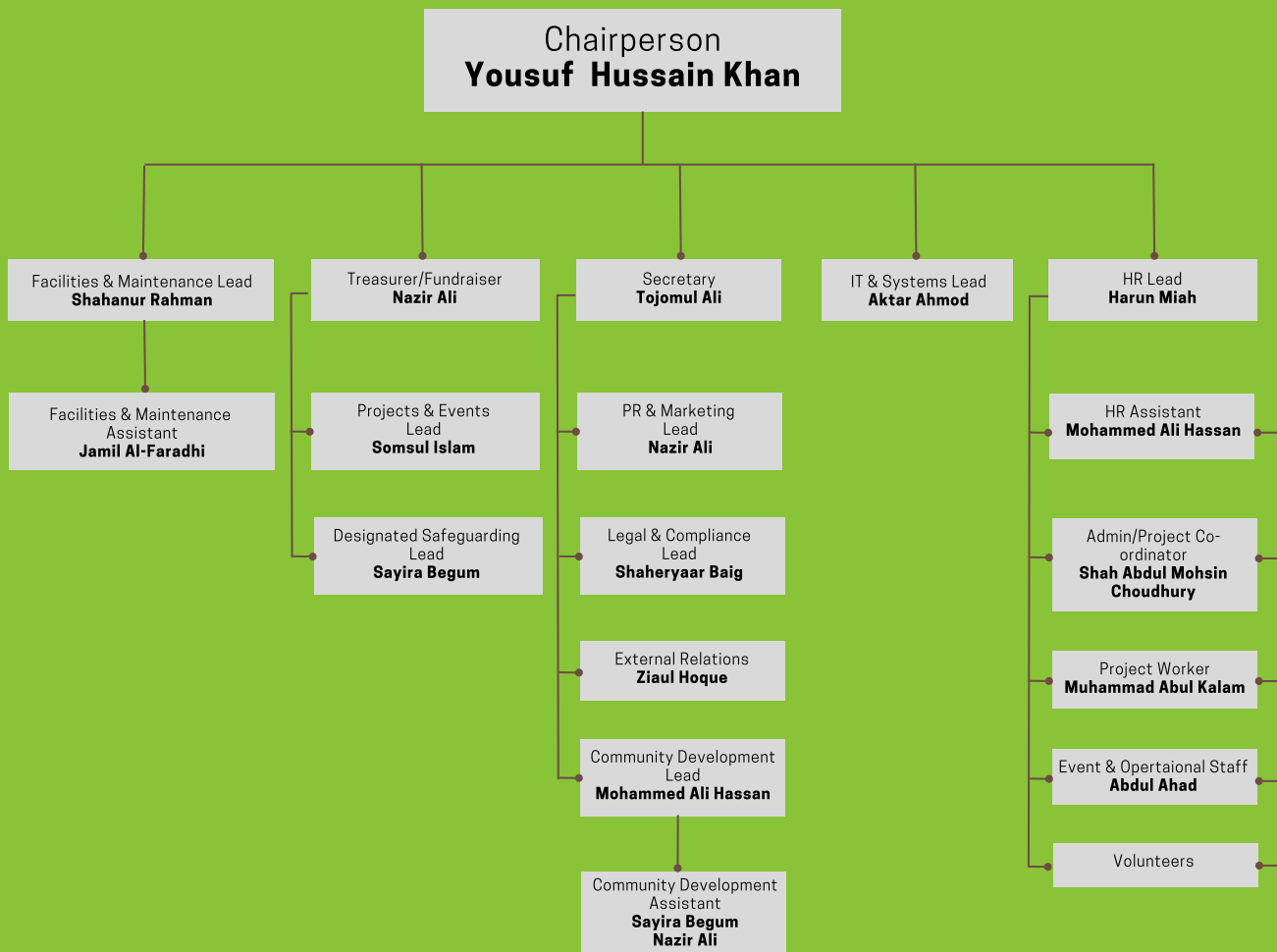
The objectives of the management committee are to ensure that the Hedgecock Centre is:

- The hub for the community
- Promotes learning together
- Engages a diverse community
- Ensures openness and transparency
- Empowers local people



STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Hedgecock Community Centre Ltd is constituted as a charity {180699} and a registered company limited by guarantee (Company No: 10751294). Its objects and powers are set out in its Memorandum and Articles of Association which were adopted in February 2017. The board of trustees consists of 12 executive members who conduct monthly meetings and subcommittee meetings. Within the board, we have identified a lead for each role according to their strengths. Below is HCC's Organisational Structure:



CHAIRS REPORT



I am delighted to present this annual report for the year 2020/21 on behalf of the Hedgecock board of directors and trustees, as we celebrate 4 years of operation. The centre has proven beneficial to the community, where the diverse population participates in different activities held in the centre.

2020/21 has proven difficult for the centre due to the pandemic. With the lockdown protocols, it is unfortunate we were unable to conduct any classes or events during most periods of the year. However, this did not stop us from supporting the community by providing services. This includes our Foodbank which was introduced in late March 2020. This was to support the needy, elderly, and those who have been affected by the pandemic. We have also been planning our next stages on how to develop the centre further and provide workshops and events for the community when it is safe to do so.

“

The centre has proven beneficial to the community, where the diverse population participates in different activities held in the centre.

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We have seen a loss of income, as we were unable to provide our facilities to external hirers to conduct events and public classes. However, we were able to cope as we have built our reserves for emergencies such as this pandemic. Our financial reserves have enabled us to maintain our running costs. When the restrictions were eased, we provided a discretionary discount to our service providers as an incentive to continue providing classes such as supplementary classes and self defence classes in Hedgecock Community Centre.

Going forward, we will be looking to develop further by providing more services to the wider community of LBBD. We will be waiting for our old service providers to return and introduce new workshops and events for the community of LBBD to participate in.

Yousuf Hussain Khan

Yousuf Hussain Khan
Chairperson

HCC YOUTH PROJECT

The youth project was introduced in August 2018, after receiving a grant from BBC Children in Need. As the years passed, we have always sought to improve our service to provide an effective youth project shaping young lives. The youth project is conducted every Wednesday from 6 pm - 9 pm for ages 11- 18 years old.

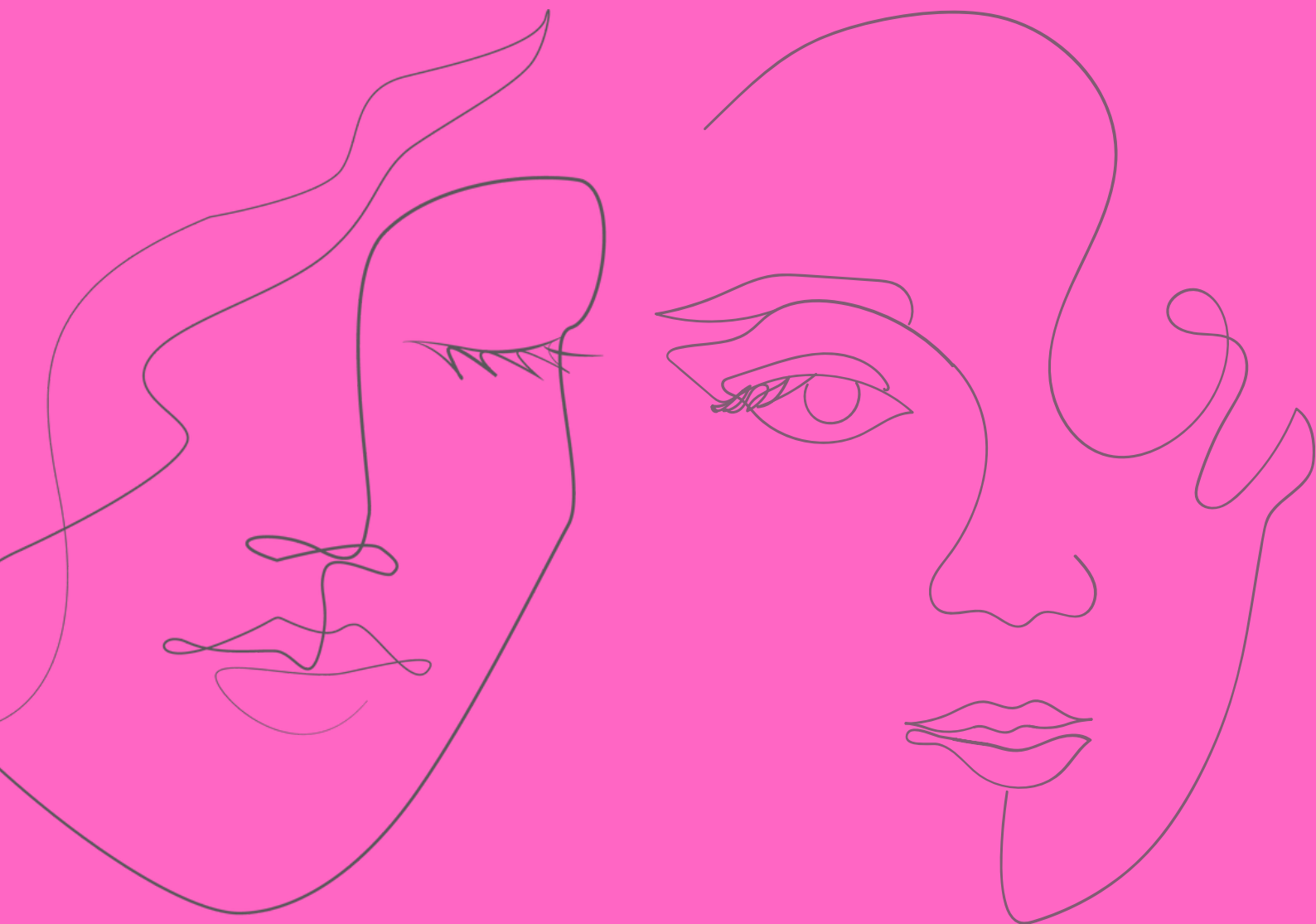
Due to restrictions, we have limited the session to only 15 attendees, abiding by the government guidelines. We will look to continue to develop this by providing workshops online and offline, allowing young people to develop key skills which will be useful in the future. We have attained a group of young volunteers who have been providing support and participating in HCC workshops and events.



HCC GIRLS PROJECT

This project was introduced by our community development and project team, who were identifying different projects to offer for the LBBD community. It has come to our attention that the youth project has a high rate of male attendees and low female attendees. From our findings, it was agreed to conduct a separate youth project targeting young females to promote female empowerment. This has been created to allow female candidates to partake in indoor sporting activities such as table tennis, pool, etc.

We provide a space for young females to feel safe and socialise with other young female participants whom they may have not met before. We will also be providing workshops to these young females such as self-defence, overcoming challenges/changes a female may face, and other female-orientated workshops. We will be looking to develop this project further by attaining grants and hiring female staff.



HCC FOOD BANK

This is a newly introduced project where we will utilise our storage space to conduct our food bank. The Food Bank was providing a weekly supply of food and essentials to the vulnerable and needy in LBBD. Due to the recent pandemic, this was fast-tracked by the management committee and volunteers to assist the community who have been isolated or are vulnerable. We had attained a grant from Tesco bag for help to cover costs and donations from the local community supporting the project.

We had 20+ volunteers who had come weekly to support our innovative food bank. The volunteers were split into two, where one set of volunteers will be constructing the packs and the other will deliver. The food packs were constructed per the resident's family size, dietary and sanitation needs. The volunteer drivers had a time slot to pick up from the centre and the location of the drops. During this period, we had over 100 deliveries per week and have received exceptional feedback from recipients acknowledging our support. We had also worked with the NHS, hostels, and other third parties allowing us to provide ad-hoc emergency deliveries to those who were in dire need.



**20+
VOLUNTEERS**

**100
DELIVERIES
PER WEEK**

**WORKED WITH
THE NHS,
HOSTELS, AND
OTHER THIRD
PARTIES**

SELF-DEFENCE CLASSES

There are currently three sets of self-defence classes provided in our centre by service providers. These are Mirza Martial Arts every Monday from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm ages 5+, Rising Star Muay Thai every Monday 7:30 pm - 9 pm ages 5+ and Silverback Taekwondo Ages 8 - 18 years old every Tuesday 7 pm - 8 pm. All classes have approximately 10 - 30 students regularly attending. These are open to all and prices for attendance can be obtained by contacting the service providers. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, these classes could not be conducted for most of the year. They have notified us they will return when the lockdown restriction has been eased or uplifted.



BARKING COMMUNITY FORUM

A communal Islamic prayer for the Muslim community hosted every Friday afternoon from 12 pm - 2 pm is provided by Barking Community Forum (BCF). This allows Muslims around the borough ease of access to prayer near to their house as well as Muslim staff from NHS Barking Medical Group to attend their compulsory Friday Prayers. Due to lockdown restrictions, the Friday prayers could not be conducted for most periods of the year. When the restriction was eased, BCF returned to provide their services ensuring precaution measures were taken by providing sanitisers, masks and ensuring distanced is maintained to avoid a mass spread of COVID-19.



COUNCILLOR'S SURGERIES

Local councillors utilise our centre boardroom allowing a private area where they can provide their surgery to aid the local community with any queries or complaints they may have.



ZION HILLS MINISTRIES

A church group organisation that has utilized HCC for their regular Sunday church activities every Sunday from 10 am - 1 pm as well as providing additional Bible studies every Friday 7:30 pm - 9 pm. A turnout of approximately 100 people attends the Sunday church and approximately 10 - 15 people attend for the Friday Bible studies. Unfortunately, due to COVID- 19, their church services could not be conducted due to lockdown restrictions.

IDEA ACADEMY

Young people who are taking their GCSEs or A-levels can attend Idea Academy Tuition group with equipped tutors providing their service every Sunday from 1 pm - 4 pm at an hourly rate. With usually approximately 60 students attending on a weekly basis in previous years, young people are assisted in their mathematics, English, and science as well as other topics to attain high grades for a brighter future. They have been running with reduced attendees, ensuring safety measures are taken when they can so that young people are equipped for their exams.

RICHEST MIND

A monthly meeting and workshop provided by Richest Mind on health benefits every Saturday 1 pm - 3 pm. They also provide a free health check on blood sugar, BMI, and weight as well as advice on how to reduce health risks and staying fit.

LISTENING COMPANION

A counsellor with years' worth of experience in her field providing a safe space for the local community to tackle any issues they may be facing such as mental health issues, family problems, etc. By hiring the boardroom, it allows the counsellor to utilise a safe space to ensure confidentiality and allows the client to speak freely without worry. Due to restrictions, this has now been running online rather than face to face.

THE INKWELL INSTITUTE

A supplementary class provided by Al Qalam Academy a project by Inkwell Institute providing out-of-school training and support, youth activities, language, and seminars for ages 6 -18 every Saturday from 10 am - 1 pm. They had approximately 40 young participants attending regularly in previous years. This has now been reduced to ensure safety precautions taken when conducting classes.

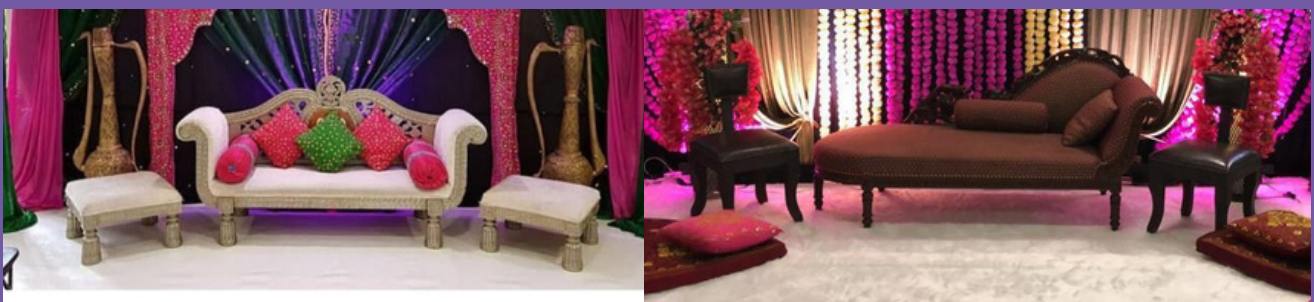
FITNESS & HEALTH

We have seen an increase in fitness and health at HCC. There have been 3 additional sessions of ladies' aerobics provided by Leftley Sports Club (LSC) every Tuesday & Thursday evening from 8:15 pm - 9:15 pm, and every Wednesday morning from 10:30 am - 11:30 am with over 20 ladies attending per class. There is also a yoga class provided by Ageing Well every Wednesday morning from 9:30 am - 10:30 am with an increased attendance of 20 regular participants. These are excellent services provided to the community to promote healthy wellbeing and living. The classes are provided by experienced instructors with years' worth of experience in their field. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, these classes could not be conducted in the Centre this year. They will continue using HCC once the restrictions have been lifted and when it is safe to do so.



PRIVATE EVENTS

The centre is available for the public to hire for a variety of events. These include life events such as Mehndi, birthdays, anniversary parties, etc. The centre was also used by other service providers to promote different workshops or used by focus groups to research public opinion. Some public events include the Science Week fair, anti-knife crime workshop, dementia awareness, building of new social housing, seminars, and many more. Unfortunately, due to government restrictions, we were unable to provide our facilities to the residents for these parties.



SOCIAL AND CULTURAL GROUPS

We have a variety of social groups using our premises for workshops, language classes, or providing seminars. We have a women's culture group every Monday from 10 am - 12 pm with approximately 50-60 attending regularly. This is followed by a men's cultural class from 12 pm - 1 pm with 20 regular attendees providing cultural lessons about their country and language classes. We also have a Women's Circle conducted every final Thursday of the month (except August and December) with key guest speakers providing workshops on important matters, which the local females community members may benefit from. Depending on the workshop the attendees vary from 20 - 40 attendees.

We also have a Mother and Toddlers group every Thursday 10 am - 12 pm providing a safe place for all mothers to participate in activities with their toddlers as well as providing workshops and seminars. Unfortunately, these groups could not conduct their classes during the pandemic and will return after the lockdown restrictions have been lifted.



HEDGECK COMMUNITY CENTRE

TRUSTEE MEETING & ROLES

The trustees have been conducting meetings on how improvements can be made during previous years. These are conducted monthly, where trustees available will dedicate their time to discuss important matters. These include any problems that may have arisen, improvements to the centre, and planning various activities for the community to participate in. The trustees have also had additional meetings at short notice to discuss any urgent matters at hand. This year the trustees have been conducting online meetings using MS teams. This is to ensure that discussion can continue to tackle issues at hand, introduce new projects (abiding by government guidelines) and provide support to the local community from Hedgecock Community Centre.

There has also been discussion regarding the role of trustees and a few amendments have been made. This was discussed in a meeting and unanimously agreed upon by all parties. It allows trustees to be in a role they feel comfortable in and best suited in terms of their knowledge and talents. We have also been in contact with councils in terms of the lease agreement. An agreement has been made for a 30-year lease with a rent-free period allowing us to build our reserves to be used during a situation like the current pandemic.

This year we conducted our AGM on Zoom video conference on January 2020, where non director members were invited to be provided an update on the centre performance and have an opportunity to ask questions regarding the future of HCC. This is to ensure the safety of members and guests. We were joined by Monica Needs (Head of Participation and Engagement), Nikki Lane (Participation Manager), local councillors, and Emdad Rahman (MBE). We have received praise for previous events conducted and future events to be held.

The trustees had previously planned an away day in March 2020, to develop the current business plan and vision of the centre. It also involved a team activity to build a stronger bond amongst the members. This is currently being planned and will be conducted when restrictions have been lifted.

Staff and Volunteers



CENTRE LEASE

An agreement between Hedgecock Community Centre and London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has been concluded. The council has provided a 30-year lease starting from August 2020 with a rent-free period. This is a huge milestone for Hedgecock Community Centre, allowing us to provide communal activities to the residents of Longbridge ward and LBBD.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

In our meetings, we have agreed with different external service providers to assist us in the managing of our centre. These include the following:

- Quilford, who have been providing us financial advice, record keeping (including a set-up of Xero) and managing our payroll.
- Kuddus Solicitors - Our legal advisor, who has been working closely with us to attain a lease from the councils.
- Lock1Media - Lock1Media has been producing high-quality media which includes posters and videos to showcase our events to the public.

FUTURE PLANS

We are always seeking opportunities to improve the services in HCC by implementing new projects and attracting new service providers. We will continue taking feedback on previous events provided by HCC and will look to improve our services. We will also seek to improve our fundraising strategies enabling us to introduce new projects and improve current projects.

The followings are what the centre will be focusing on:

- Planning safe opening of the centre post COVID - 19
- Producing and finalising sessional plan 2021 / 2022
- Setting up a governance committee
- Review of current governance arrangements
- Review of staff and trustee performance
- Refurbishment of centre and installation of new equipment
- Providing more beneficial workshops to the community
- Providing events for the community of LBBD
- Partnership Football Coaching with Wapping FC
- Strengthen Girls Project

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS

Due to the centre being closed, we have been furloughing those who are eligible. This is due to a loss of income at the centre due to lockdown restrictions. We will re-hire back our staff should they still be available and lockdown restrictions have been lifted.

Our youth workers have been working on planning and developing our youth club to provide more workshops and events for the youth project. This was conducted with the help of our youth worker who has assisted us in creating posters, videos, and promotional materials.

We will also be looking to hire additional staff to support our current team, diversifying each role to ensure the effectiveness of the centre. We have seen an increase of volunteer at HCC who have reached out to support us with our food bank. We have also attained young volunteers who are ex-youth club attendees (18+) who have notified us of their support for the centre when we conduct events. We will continue to search for more volunteers who will assist us in conducting future events and workshops.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	31.03.21 Total funds £	31.03.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS from Donations and legacies			27,364	27,364	10,000
Other trading activities	2	1,727	(800)	927	44,969
Total		1,727	26,564	28,291	54,969
EXPENDITURE ON Raising funds	3	8,643	19,678	28,321	49,303
Other		639		639	6,393
Total		9,282	19,678	28,960	55,696
NET INCOME (EXPENDITURE)		(7,555)	6,886	(669)	(727)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS Total funds brought forward		41,176	3,517	44,693	45,420
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		33,621	10,403	44,024	44,693

The notes form part of these financial statements



Hedgecock Community Centre LTD

Company No: 10751294

Charity Number: 1180699