

Annual Report 2021/22



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Reference and Administrative Details



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Tel: 0330 321 0173

Registered Office:

28 Stephen Jewers Gardens
Barking, Essex
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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

Mr. Shahanur Rahman

Mr. Mohammed Ali Hassan

Mr Suruk Ahmed (Appointed 16th Mar 2022)

Mr Monir Uddin Ahmad (Appointed 16th Mar 2022)

Mrs Sayira Begum (Resigned 26th Jan 2022)

Mr Shaheryaar Baig (Resigned 16th Mar 2022)

Mr Ziaul Hoque (Resigned 16th Mar 2022)

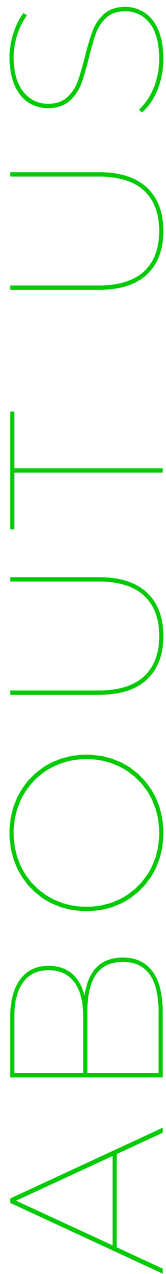
Auditors:

Quilfords Accountancy and Taxation

113 Romford Road, E13 4LY

Company Number: 10751294

Charity Number: 1180699

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

Since its inception, the HCC has been working with various service providers, the voluntary sector, and volunteers to provide various activities and events for the benefit of the local and the wider community. These activities vary from health and fitness to social groups and gatherings which are open to the diverse community.

Over the past five years, the HCC has been continuously evolving to meet the needs and demands of the community and will continue to develop 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 in the delivery of projects.

Going forward, HCC is working to develop a robust Service Plan to meet the needs of the community for the next five years.



Vision

Hedgecock Community Centre to be the flagship community centre for London. We will be promoting Multiculturalism and integration of all communities by creating coming together events. Best delivery of services for the community where people will be benefited and enjoy to be part of the wider community.

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 wider community, HCC aims to be a holistic service provider, develop a centre of excellence, and make it 'a hub for the community'.

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

HCC is already seeing the fruits of its labour and continues to operate with 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.

HCC continues to strive to be the flagship community centre for Barking & Dagenham.

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

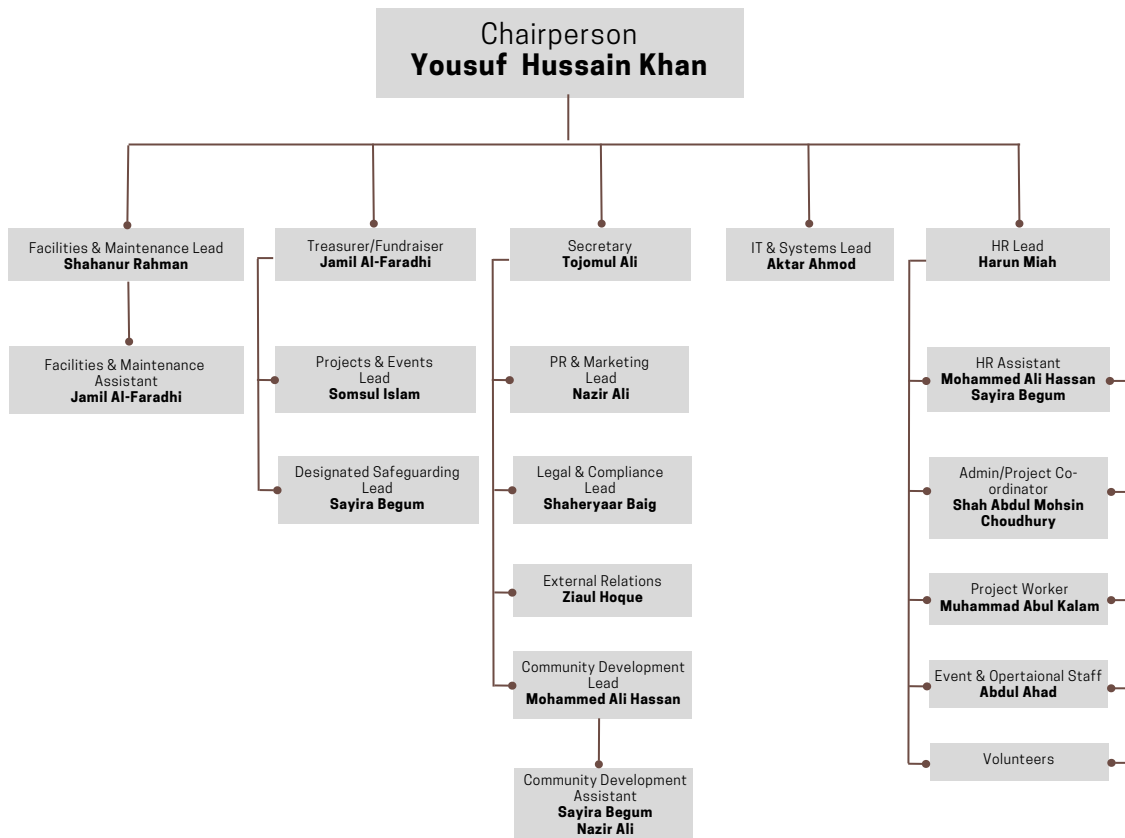
- The hub for the community.
- Promotes learning together.
- Engages a diverse community.
- Ensures openness and transparency.
- Empowers local people.



Structure & Governance



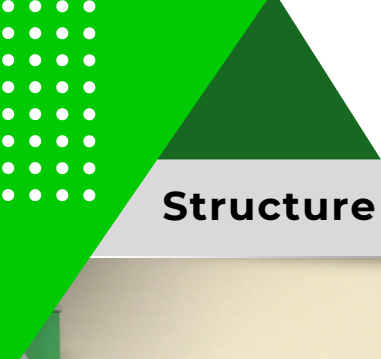
Hedgecock Community Centre to be the flagship community centre for London. We will be promoting Multiculturalism and integration of all communities by creating coming together events. Best delivery of services for the community where people will be benefited and enjoy to be part of the wider community.



In accordance with the article of association, there will be a rotation of the board of trustees every two years which means a maximum of four longest serving or inactive trustees will step down and new trustees will be elected to the board of trustees from the group of members.

This enables the organisation to attain fresh ideas and work together to provide a much-needed service in the Longbridge ward and the wider community of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. The resigned trustee will have an opportunity to re-join the board at the next Bi-Annual General Meeting (BGM).

Throughout the year, HCC reviews and updates the policies and procedures. The Board of Trustees had set up a working committee to review the overall effectiveness of individual policies and procedures in line with good practice and revise and update accordingly.



Structure & Governance (continued)



Chairs Report



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

”

I am pleased to present the fifth annual report as chairperson of the Hedgecock Community Centre. We continue to improve our service offering to the local community through diverse projects. In the previous year, the centre was closed for the most part due to the pandemic and in line with government guidelines which limited our ability to serve the community. However, with the uplifting of restrictions, it gives me great pleasure to announce Hedgecock Community Centre's safe reopening with the re-commencement of majority of our project which saw staggered return of service providers.

2021/22 has been a difficult period as we were operating under government restrictions across the first quarter, which resulted in a loss of income. We provided a 50% discount to our regular hirers to assist them during the restriction as the service providers saw a drop in subscription to their services. However, we were able to have a safe and successful reopening of the centre for the returning projects and provide events/workshops for the local community after a long period of being locked indoors.

I would also like to provide my condolence to the individuals and families who have suffered from the pandemic financially, mentally, and emotionally and to those who have lost their loved ones to the virus, including our respected late Mr Azizur Rahman who was an esteemed member of the organisation.

Yousuf Hussain Khan

Yousuf Hussain Khan
Chairperson

Youth Project

The youth project has been running successfully for more than 3 years, offering a safe space for young people (target group of 11 – 18 years old) to participate in indoor recreational and social activities. The project was introduced to upskill young people with transferable skills e.g., communication, and tackling anti-social behaviour, and building a stronger cohesion among the young people of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham.

Over the years, the project has seen 80 young people participate in the project and benefit from the services offered. Our youth workers have seen improvement in the young people's behaviour and participation levels. There has also been an improvement in their soft skills which was evident in participants effectively communicating in group activities, improved creativity, and a higher level of confidence. Hedgecock Community Centre managed to recruit young volunteers to assist in other projects and events held in the centre.



Youth Project (continued)



Youth Project (continued)

Inspire girls project was introduced to tackle the low participation level of females in our youth club with only 2 or 3 female attendees. The inspire girl project consists of 12 – 15 participants attending regularly on a weekly basis. The project also includes female-orientated workshops and promotes female empowerment.

A day trip to Stubbers was provided to 20 young participants on a first come first serve basis. The trip was designed to overcome obstacles such as fear or low confidence and develop soft skills. Our youth workers have reported back they have seen young people overcome their fear of heights in the rock-climbing exercise and better communication within the team building workshop. Observing, strategising, and directing were also key components of the team-building workshop.



Youth Project (continued)



Holiday Programme

A summer football camp named 'young champs' was formed to be provided during the holidays. This was planned and implemented by the participants of the youth project, upskilling them in project building. 30 young males attended the weekly training session. The training helped develop their team working skills, be more vocal, and improve their confidence levels. From the Summer camp, a team was formed to participate in the THICN football tournament.

We were joined by 12 participants of mixed genders for our baking workshop held in Hedgecock Community Centre. This was also provided online for those who were unable to join due to isolation.

We provided two book fairs for the local community which attracted more than 200 people. The event was aimed mainly at young people, to tackle mental health issues. The community was able to visit the centre and pick any book (fictional or non-fictional) to take home and read during the lockdown period. The books were donated by residents, Book Bike London, and local bookstores. We have also received family fun packs from the British Library to give away on the day. Restriction guidelines were adhered to during the event allowing only a set number of people to enter.

A table tennis tournament provided in the fall term has seen 12 participants including our current and previous (ages 19+) youth club members. A £50 gift card was provided to the winner including trophies.



Holiday Programme (continued)



HCC FUNDAY

The previous years have been difficult for most with being isolated at home due to restrictions. It was agreed by the board of trustees to host a fun day for the community of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. This was to build stronger cohesion amongst the community, raise spirit levels and enjoy a fun-filled day.

We were joined by stall holders selling unique items and Boxing Fitness Academy (BFA) who had provided a small demonstration of their boxing drills. There were activities for families to participate in such as mini competitions, inflatables, arts and crafts etc. Council leader Darren Rodwell and local councillors also attended the event and provided their praises of the event held.

The board of trustees has decided to continue providing an annual fun day for the community as it brings the community closer.



Holiday Programme (continued)



SELF DEFENCE

In Hedgecock Community Centre there are different types of self-defence and martial arts classes being provided. These are Rising Star Muay Thai, Silverback Taekwondo (Ages 6 – 18) and newly introduced community trust martial arts every. Each group is averaging 10 – 20 students attending on a weekly basis.



Community Projects (continued)

RELIGIOUS

Barking Community Forum (BCF) provides a communal Islamic prayer for the Muslim community every Friday from 12 pm – 2 pm. This allows Muslims around the borough and Muslim staff from NHS Barking Medical Group ease of access to attend their compulsory Friday Prayers.

When it was legally possible, BCF returned to deliver Friday prayers with social distancing and risk mitigation in place during the restriction period. They also provided an additional slot for prayers due to high demand. The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham authorised BCF to deliver Ramadan night prayers during after hours, which was managed efficiently.

Zion Hills Ministries (ZHM), a church organisation that provides weekly Sunday church services for the local community. Due to the pandemic restriction, ZHM returned at a later stage to ensure the safe return of their services. They have approx. 100 regular attendees benefiting from the church sermons.



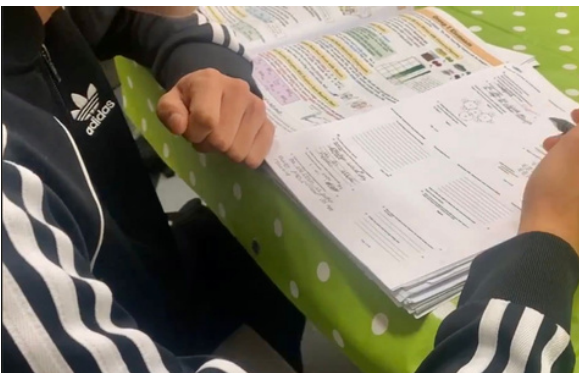
Community Projects (continued)

TUITION

There are currently three supplementary classes providing their services for the community. This includes Inkwell Institute (Ages 6 – 18), Idea Academy (providing tuition service for KS2/3, GCSE, and A-levels) and Kumon Academy, who had joined recently.

Each tuition group is averaging approximately 20-30 students every week providing beneficial classes to young people of LBBB for a brighter future. During the restriction period, they were conducted at a reduced rate of 15 people to align with the government restrictions.

A science technology engineering mathematics (STEM) group called EduCamp provided their workshops during the fall and winter periods. They had approx. 20 attendees for each workshop.



FITNESS

We recognize that fitness is key to staying healthy as it improves respiratory, cardiovascular, and overall health. Therefore, we promote regular exercise as it develops strong muscles and bones. It can also help to stay mentally healthy as it stimulates chemicals that improve your mood and parts of the brain responsible for memory and learning.

In Hedgecock, there is currently an elderly yoga session provided by Young at heart, Ladies' aerobics, Bootcamp, and mini athletics for young kids (ages 2 – 7 yrs.).

These are open to all residents in LBBB to participate in the fitness program to stay fit and healthy as well as learn new exercises to reduce body fat, and stress or improve mental health. Each group averages approximately 15 – 20 attendees every week.



Community Projects (continued)

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

There were a variety of community groups using HCC premises for workshops, language classes, and seminars.

An Upney women's group provided beneficial workshops and social networking on a once-a-week basis. There were approx. 20 – 30 attendees on a weekly basis.

A weekly men's cultural study group is provided on a weekly basis where they socialise, learn, and discuss their cultural values. There are approximately 10 – 15 attendees in the group.

A monthly women's circle contains a key guest speaker providing workshops on important matters for the local female community. Depending on the workshop the attendees vary from 20 – 40 attendees.



Community Projects (continued)

PRIVATE

The Hedgecock Community Centre is available for the public to hire for a variety of events. These include private events such as Mehndi, birthdays, anniversary parties, etc.

The centre was also used by 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.

All events were aligned with the covid restrictions and risk mitigation in place.

TEAM

Our Staff and volunteers have been working extremely hard to maintain the centre and provide diverse projects to the local community.

There has also been a rise in volunteers coming forward to provide their support to our events such as the fun day, tournaments and so on. Young participants from our youth club were also keen on volunteering with HCC providing their support towards our events and workshops.

A group of young people had worked closely with our youth workers in developing a summer football camp. They worked from the planning to the implementation of the camp.

We would like to provide our gratitude to our staff and volunteers for their hard work and support for our projects and workshops.



Centre Improvements

We as a centre are always looking to improve our quality. A new smartboard screen, funded by the BBC Children, was installed to be used for youth service, seminars and can also be hired by other service providers. Parking bollards and chains were installed to avoid trespassers who were using our driveway for anti-social activities.

Due to damages and marks on the wall, it was agreed a repaint of the centre was required. We had shut the centre for a brief period during a non-busy period to ensure the centre was up to good standard for our centre users.

We are continuously looking to make improvements to the centre to attract bookings and provide beneficial itineraries to attract new projects. We will also look to maximise the centre usage by making any improvements to current floor plans or a possible extension of the building.



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:

01 Improve our youth club services by providing beneficial workshops, activities, and up-skilling young people

02 Implement a fundraising strategy and secure more funding

03 Implement a female fitness programme

04 Build key partnerships with other local communities and/or charity organisations

05 Develop a local football team

06 Extending the building to provide more space for the community and attract more service providers



Hedgecock Community Centre LTD

Company No: 10751294

Charity Number: 1180699