

**Southall Community Alliance
Annual Report 2009/2010**

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Chairs Introduction

As we reach the end of another incredibly busy year Southall Community Alliance has exceeded expectations and provided real value for money thanks to everyone's input. So I will begin by expressing my sincere thanks to you all.

A number of us began this journey almost thirty years ago with an organisation called Unified Community Action in 1981, including Dilbagh Chana MBE, Mrs. Balwinder Kaur Chahal, George Twyman, Ravi Jain and myself. The organisation pioneered the concept of community cohesion and provided the community with a voice based on consensus. It was quite rightly hailed as a flag ship organisation. Together we have travelled through turbulent times and at the start of the new millennium evolved into the present form as Southall Community Alliance (SCA).



Abdullahi Osman, Michael Bolley and Harsev Bains outside Southall Community Alliance

As we look forward to celebrating 30 years as a community organisation and ten years as SCA, we will be utilising the skills and experience of Board members and staff to

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develop and deliver robust forward planning and adopt a pragmatic approach to change.

In the last thirty years, we have learnt one thing that is a given constant, and that is 'change'.

The next year will provide plenty of opportunities to SCA and all those operating in this critical sector with challenges and the need for change that will test our united mettle.

The process has already begun with our move to Southall Town Hall as an interim measure. The facilities are smaller and constrained now. We all have to be more flexible in sharing the available space. New partnerships and alliances will be called for, as we jointly take responsibility in offering a high quality service to the people who come through the doors expecting advice and support. It is our belief and trust in the people that will sustain us through these difficult times as SCA continues to put the communities first.

SCA has been engaged in discussions with Ealing Council officers, exploring possibilities and options for a permanent home for SCA. These discussions have informed the substance of the detailed SCA Business Plan, outlining the needs of the organisation for a sustainable future.

The needs and aspirations of the community and voluntary sector, as well as SCA as a network organisation and service provider, were fundamental in the examination and analysis of the options considered.

I am pleased to report on behalf of the Board that we are making good progress in formalising and securing future accommodation. The best option that satisfies the identified needs of the organisation, offers the best value for money for both parties and provides us all with an opportunity to grow will be at the renovated and restored Southall Manor House (SMH).

It is our belief that the facilities at SMH will enable us to consolidate SCA activities and act as a catalyst for the next stage in the evolution of Southall Community Alliance, Community Resource Centre.

Blueprint for sustainable development:-

- The SMH will provide a permanent home for SCA and a central focal point for community activities in Southall.
- The Elizabethan period house will help illustrate the underlining traditional values and beliefs of SCA in building a harmonious community in Southall.

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- Enable SCA to support groups that value and promote cultural and individual differences, are proud of Southall's heritage and are prepared for change in the community.
- Enhanced services and facilities will strengthen SCA's ethos of providing shared space via I.T. hot desks and common activity/ meeting rooms.
- At the new home SCA will provide an enriched experience with an offer of an accessible, warm, welcoming, safe and secure environment of a higher quality for all users.



Revd Yaqoob Khushi of Voice of Dalit International helping a client at SCA hotdesk

- SCA will provide permanent exhibition space open to the public to depict Southall's rich culture and historic heritage.
- SCA will act as a responsible neighbour caring for the environment and support initiatives to develop the facilities and regeneration of the locality.
- All users will be encouraged to think and act 'green'.
- SCA will prepare and deliver a business plan in partnership with Ealing Council and other agencies that will ensure the future sustainability of the SMH and itself as the principal stakeholder.

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- The business model will be based on the principles of charitable status with a mix of social enterprise for income generation.

Our work in the year ahead will support the five key priorities for the borough set out by the new administration:-

- Make Ealing safer
- Secure Ealing's public services
- Secure jobs and homes in Ealing
- Make Ealing cleaner
- Deliver value for money

On 27th March 2011, the National Census will take place. This single most powerful event will influence the future funding of the local authority from the national coffers and its capacity to provide services. It is in our interest to provide an accurate data of the number of people in our homes that day without fear or persecution. It is only a snapshot at that time. This is our collective responsibility.

Finally my sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Board and the staff team led by Janpal Basran - Network and Community Development Manager, Savita Vaid - Administrative Officer, Babie Kapoor - Receptionist / Admin Assistant, Suki Kaur - BMER Fundraising and Development Officer, Khalil Ur Rahim - Supplementary Schools coordinator, Dheg Aidid - FGM Project Officer and Bishara Mohamud - FGM Support Volunteer.

On behalf of the Board, our appreciation and gratitude to all our fund providers whose stretching targets we have met, but without their most valuable input no delivery would have been possible. And our thanks to the wonderful resourceful volunteers driven by a desire to serve in the true spirit of SCA.

We thank you all.

Harsev Bains
Chair

Managers work report 2009/10

As one of the busiest years in our history 2009/10 was characterised by intense work and many notable achievements. As ever this report will cover our work and acknowledge the role that our many partners during the year have played in making these successes a collective effort. The year also witnessed the inevitable impact of the 'credit crunch' and this report will also consider some key future challenges for SCA in coming years.



An attentive community audience using the SCA meeting room

Staffing

In a year full of growing uncertainty about the future resourcing of the sector in Ealing, SCA was very fortunate to build on the stable staffing relationships that have been established since 2003. Part of this good fortune was due to the positive development and progression of existing staff but also to the arrival of new colleagues, adding to our staffing complement.

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No recent annual report would be complete without mentioning our Administrative Officer, Savita Vaid, who has been such an asset to SCA. There is no doubt that we have been lucky to have someone of Savita's calibre and commitment working with us for such a long time. However, all good things must come to an end, and this will be Savita's final full year as she moves on to bigger and better things. Savita has enjoyed an excellent rapport with SCA users and visitors, something that is difficult to re-create or replace and she will be sorely missed.

Having said this, the close of the financial year saw the arrival of Babie Kapoor, as a part-time administrative officer. Babie and Savita have combined well and provided a dynamic point of first contact for visitors to the SCA office. Babie has adapted very quickly to her role and shown real enthusiasm and commitment to her duties.

Previous reports have commended the work of our BMER Fundraising Officer, Suki Kaur, and this year is no exception, with continuing high quality work having been delivered to support local groups. In line with the demands on all staff, Suki's role has evolved in recent years with a shift away from the provision of one-to-one funding support to a more strategic and partnership brokering function being ascribed to the post. In practical terms the past year saw Suki often working with officers from the London Borough of Ealing (LBE) External Funding team to establish precisely the type of partnership projects that may provide a model of sustainability within the local voluntary sector.

The year also, unfortunately, saw the departure of Lorna Jones, the Supplementary Schools Co-ordinator. Lorna had worked with SCA for two years and had really grown into a role that had taken time to embed and in 2009/10 we began to see the fruits of her hard work with supplementary schools bearing fruit. It is always difficult to replace such a vital team member but SCA and partners immediately sought to find a replacement for Lorna and, following a recruitment drive, we were delighted to appoint Khalil Ur Rahim as the new co-ordinator.

Another new addition to the staff team saw the arrival, in February 2010, of Dheg Aidid, as the FGM Project Officer. Dheg was appointed as part of a project funded by the City Parochial Foundation and she has fitted in extremely well with her colleagues and shown a very positive and proactive approach to making the project a lasting success. Dheg has been ably assisted by Bishara Mohamud, working as the FGM Support Volunteer, and together they are making a real impact in raising awareness of issues related to the practice of female genital mutilation.

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For the first time in many years the office also benefitted from the provision of quality input from volunteers including Shahida Mohamed, Reena Ghale, Stephen Buchanan and Patricia Crust. We need to particularly acknowledge the wonderful support that Patricia regularly provided when staff were absent because of meetings or illness.

SCA Resource Centre

Since 2004 the SCA office has provided a base and much needed office support for many voluntary sector groups in Southall. The original vision, to create a hub which would demonstrate the cohesion and unity between different groups, was not only realised but became an integral part of our work. This aspect of the Centre has been hugely successful and has, over the years, been recognised by the input of funders as varied as LBE, Awards for All, Biffawards, Lloyds TSB etc.



Young Iranian and Afghan people from Bahar Centre at Drug Awareness Talk

In 2009/10 the Centre continued to witness high levels of demand upon the free hot desk facilities. A total of 34 groups used the hot desks during the year, an increase upon the previous years usage. These users included : British Keralites Association,

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African Support Network, Access for Support & Development Centre, Bahar Centre, International Saraiki Association, Multicultural Arts Association, Aid Community Group, Slavic & Baltic Association, Helplink, Somali Aid & Development Association, Qoys Foundation, Focus Forth UK etc.

The SCA meeting room has also become an invaluable asset for many groups requiring accessible space, particularly on weekends. Following from the trend established over the last two years the room was regularly used on a block basis by a number of organisations, confirming both the high level of demand for such a facility and also the short supply of affordable small scale meeting space in Southall. It is also instructive to note the types of usage of the room which have included : management committee meetings, arts classes for children and adults, health awareness sessions, media training for young women, inter-faith workshops, Met Police drop in surgeries, voluntary sector outreach surgeries etc.

In total the number of groups using the room was 21, a slightly lower overall figure than in the previous year but due to the significant increase in groups block booking their usage in advance. Some of the beneficiaries included : BBA Media, West London Women's Group, Access for Support & Development Centre, A Rocha, Action Acton, Focus Forth, Met Police, Indian Workers Association (GB), Ealing Mencap etc.

The overall number of visitors to the SCA Centre in 2009/10 was over 4,500. As in the past, this would have included a combination of regular and occasional users, often from all parts of Ealing. The main reason for visits was usually linked to the need for advice and advocacy services that either could not be accessed elsewhere or were accessible with community language support at SCA. The provision of these signposting services in Somali, Punjabi, Urdu and Hindi was due primarily to the excellent services of Abdullahi Osman of ASDC, Reverend Khushi of VODI and Maria Doss from Helplink.

SCA Community Forum

One of the mainstays of SCA's work has been the use of Community Forum meetings to raise awareness of developments and initiatives affecting Southall. Past meetings have looked at areas such as enviro-crime, local policing, community accommodation, Southall Gasworks etc. In this year SCA arranged 3 meetings of the Forum covering health issues, Ealing Hospital and community needs in Southall. The meetings were attended by 60 people representing over 20 organisations. The ultimate aim of the Community Forum is to encourage public participation and involvement in local affairs

and give residents the information they need to make informed decisions about developments affecting Southall.

Spikes Bridge Park

Towards the end of 2008 LBE sought expressions of interest from organisations interested in developing sports and recreational facilities at the Spikes Bridge Park. The park, situated in the Lady Margaret Ward, contains the boroughs only remaining cinder running track. However, many of the former on-site facilities had been withdrawn and a pavilion, once servicing local residents and sports clubs, had been demolished. SCA therefore submitted a proposal aimed at regenerating the park, with the specific intention of re-building a new pavilion. After lengthy discussions it transpired that SCA and London Tigers, another organisation interested in the site, would develop a joint proposal and action plan for the site.

During 2009/10 both organisations worked hard to prepare a joint plan that merged recreational use at the park with formal sports development. London Tigers have an excellent record of delivering community based sports projects across London and the joint proposal emphasised the need to have a base for grassroots sports at the park, that would add to the investment by LBE into the children's play areas and newly designed MUGA area.

It was with the excellent input of Mesba Ahmed, Chief Executive of London Tigers, and Jeff Neslen that all parties were able to progress the partnership and prepare a partnership agreement concerning the construction of a pavilion at the site.

Community empowerment

Initiatives to improve access to local services have always been an important part of SCA's community development work. During 2009/10 we were able to develop a project improving the access to local health services for migrant communities. The £70 million Migrant Impact Fund (MIF) was launched in March 2009 to reduce short term pressures on local public services so that stresses upon local infrastructure could be managed for the benefit of local communities.

The Ealing proposal aimed to assist migrant communities, usually living in deprived parts of Ealing, to receive targeted health support, education and learning. SCA was assigned responsibility for delivering the health portion of the local MIF projects with the intention of improving primary care access, provide health support/advocacy for women and young people and arranging outreach services to elderly migrant residents.

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Building on a model of community impact that SCA had been developing with Acton Community Forum, the project involved the sub-commissioning of strands of work to seven community organisations including Helplink, Tallo Centre, ASDC, EASE, Havelock Family Centre and Bahar Centre. This enabled the project to deliver culturally specific health services covering childhood obesity, counselling services to Afghan/Iranian young people, health promotion workshops, GP registrations, signposting, workshops on women's mental health etc. This model of delivery ensures much needed health services are provided but also improves the sustainability and experience of needy community groups.

Community Cohesion



'Talk Up' Women's Conference held at the Oaktree Centre in Acton on 25/03/2010, as part of the 'Unity in the Community' project.

In 2008 SCA and Acton Community Forum were jointly commissioned to deliver a three year programme of community cohesion work in Ealing. The emphasis of this project was to consider cohesion in a holistic way and develop strands of work that could reduce community tensions, tackle youth crime, enhance development of a women's

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network, Black history activities, arts and cultural shows and exhibitions and improve capacity within the BMER voluntary sector.

In 2009/10 the project was able to produce some excellent work that showed the momentum that cohesion work was gathering. However, it is important to recognise that not all necessary cohesion activities would have been delivered with the resources provided by LBE alone and therefore an important part of the project was to attract external project resources that could complement the investment made locally and add value to the work in Ealing.

In this way we were able to deliver events and activities such as arts exhibitions at Pitzhangar Manor and the Dominion Centre, workshops examining women's perceptions of inter-faith relations, support cross community sports competitions, meetings between the police and VCS groups, development of a community directory of services, 'world foods' events etc. Needless to say these activities involved a huge input from many voluntary sector groups across Ealing, showing the value of area based community hubs co-ordinating and empowering local communities.

In addition to this on-going programme of work SCA was also able to successfully deliver a one year cohesion project, supported by LBE through resources directed through the Area Based Grant. This project had a very clear focus and involved a number of partners including SCA, Ealing CVS, Acton Community Forum and Catalyst Communities Housing Association working on a range of mini-projects across Ealing. The project, called 'Unity in the Community', produced some tremendous results including :

- Holiday drop in programme for young people on Green Man, Sherwood Close and Drayton Green estates
- Designing joint cross cultural neighbourhood projects on the above estates
- Arranging multi-cultural 'Smash It' badminton competition in December 2009, involving adults and young people
- The 'Healthiest Estate' project involving residents from Windmill Park, Westcott Park and Friary Lane estates – over 400+ beneficiaries involved in healthy living/intergenerational work
- Monthly interfaith coffee mornings at SCA examining the links between faith and social issues
- Multi-cultural 'Spotlight 09' dance festival in Acton

From the perspective of SCA this work only confirmed the ability of the voluntary sector to deliver cohesion activities that had real meaning for local residents and groups. This

is particularly important in view of the diverse nature of Ealing's population and the occasional tensions that can arise between communities in such situations.

'Faith Works' project

Building on the theme of developing more cohesive communities SCA was also responsible for the 'Faith Works' project. The project aimed to engage primarily with women and women's groups around interfaith issues and was funded by the Community Development Foundation. Some important project achievements included :

- Arranging interfaith media training for women, in partnership with Westside Radio
- Workshops, in Southall and Acton, about women's perceptions of faith and cohesion
- Interfaith photography project
- 'Talk Up' women's conference in March 2010, at the Oaktree Centre, involving over 80+ participants.

Clearly, as organisers we were delighted that the work involved the challenging of negatives stereotypes, as well as creating lasting opportunities for women from different ethnic and faith backgrounds to interact.

Community safety / Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE)

Ever since the government announced the strategy to 'win hearts and minds' there has been considerable focus upon working with members of the Muslim community to develop targeted PVE interventions that would encourage debate around identity and faith, build community capacity and develop networks to empower women and young people.

During the year SCA continued to contribute to this work to tackle radicalisation and extremism. As part of a Home Office funded project SCA arranged :

- Regular meetings of vulnerable individuals
- Arranged 'Breaking the silence' event in June 2009 which was attended by 25 Somali women and involved the Golden Opportunities Youth Association, Daryeel UK Foundation, Victoria Climbié Foundation, Sacomba and Diligence, Training & Consulting
- 4 workshops between December 2009 and January 2010 (60 attendees)

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The involvement of the Met Police's Counter Terrorism Team encouraged candid discussion about the Prevent agenda and explored how grievances were liable to exploitation by those advocating violent extremism. This has been significant work to change attitudes, promote open dialogue and reduce feelings of alienation amongst Ealing's Muslim communities.

As in the previous year SCA also maintained a regular involvement in the Ealing Racial Crimes Advisory Group and the Independent Advisory Group. Both bodies confirming our commitment to enhancing community safety and providing a Southall perspective in borough wide forums and discussions.

Health awareness

(a) Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) project



(L to R): Dheg Aidid with Baroness Rendell, Bishara Mohamud and Suki Kaur at the House of Commons for a Female Genital Mutilation project event

The past two years have seen SCA take on responsibility for a number of projects directly involved in the tackling of health inequalities and raising awareness of health

improvement measures. An exciting new variation on this theme was presented by the start of a project to tackle the practice of FGM.

The project was initially discussed by LBE officers and SCA was viewed as an appropriate vehicle to deliver this community based work. Suki Kaur worked very hard with LBE External Funding Officers to put together a proposal and we were pleased when we received a successful response.

The project aims to create a partnership involving voluntary sector groups, Primary Care Trust and the African Well Women's Centre to raise awareness of FGM related issues. The work of this three year project would be delivered through a part-time FGM Officer who would arrange child protection awareness sessions, media project, outreach surgeries etc. We were particularly pleased when, in February 2010, we were able to appoint the excellent Dheg Aidid as the Project Officer. In her role Dheg will be assisted by Bishara Mohamud, as a FGM Support Volunteer.

(b) 'Health First' project

A project that was initially started in the previous financial year was the 'Health First' initiative, funded by London Catalyst. This very successful programme had a strong focus upon producing a range of activities that could assist people improve their health and awareness of a healthier lifestyle. The project was delivered primarily in Dormers Wells ward with the intention of being accessible to people on low incomes or limited budgets and encouraging participants to make adaptations to their cooking and lifestyles that would improve health.

Some of the specific achievements of this project included :

- Arranging health awareness workshops around managing and preventing health conditions
- 'World foods' cultural days, combining health awareness with activities bringing together residents from different backgrounds
- Over 20 healthy cooking classes, attended by over 180 residents.
- Working with VCS groups to stimulate interest in health related projects.

The project would not have been possible without the fantastic support and enthusiasm of Rikki Aujla and Debbie Robinson at the Dormers Wells Community Centre. The really positive feedback received from people attending the cooking classes shows the continuing high demand for such community health education.

Young people

One of the prime target groups that SCA has sought to work with has been local young people. Frequent press and anecdotal reports over the years have confirmed the frustrations felt by many groups who have looked for facilities and activities for young people but often in vain. During 2009/10 SCA continued working on two fronts to deal with these issues. Firstly, and at a strategic level, we were involved in work with youth groups to examine the barriers to joint working and then at a more grassroots level we were able to deliver projects linking young people to arts and community safety opportunities.

(a) 'Link Up' Project

The 'Link Up' project was developed with the support of the National Council for Voluntary Youth Service (NCVYS). The underlying ambition of this time limited project was to understand the difficulties that groups helping young people from BME backgrounds faced in terms of engagement and accessing resources.

The project encouraged group collaboration and networking as well as providing tailored capacity building support for a specified number of organisations. The initial starting point was a needs analysis of 20 youth groups that was used as the basis for the capacity enhancing support. The Link Up conference in February 2010 marked the end of the project and was attended by 28 representatives of 18 organisations. This final event certainly benefited from the valuable contributions of Matthew Booth (LBE), London Tigers, Golden Opportunities Youth Association and NCVYS.

(b) Home Office Community Fund

Working with young people and delivering projects with them has long been an important part of SCA's work. In 2009/10 we witnessed the start of a project to help tackle gang culture involving young people. This 'Southall Champions' project involved the recruitment and training of 10 young people who could be trained to act as role models to peers, who might be at risk of becoming involved in gang related activities. As well as recruiting a group of young people the project has progressed to arranging training that would equip them with the skills and confidence needed to act as advocates for other young people. The 'Southall Champions' project has been funded by the Home Office Community Fund.

(c) smART

One of the most enjoyable youth related projects run during the year was the smART project. This youth arts project was only possible after SCA had registered with Trinity College as an Arts Awards Centre. The focus of this innovative work was to work with approximately 40 young people to develop their artistic talents and stimulate their creative energies. The young people were recruited through five local community groups : Znaniye, Focus Forth, Punjabi Theatre Academy, Bahar Centre and the Somali Youth Helpline and, in total, 36 young people fully completed the course, prepared individual art portfolios, were externally assessed and successfully achieved the Bronze Level Arts Awards. The culmination of the project was a very successful awards ceremony in December 2010 that was supported by the Mayor of Ealing, Cllr Barbara Yerole mou. Special thanks for keeping this project heading in the right direction and for expending boundless energy, needs to be expressed to Manjeet Johal.

Advice work

Although the provision of advice related services is not a direct part of SCA's work, it is an important segment of the work of many of the user groups at the SCA Resource Centre. In view of this and with the support of HM Revenue & Customs, SCA was able to deliver the 'Funding First' project. This project sought to raise awareness of the work that voluntary sector groups produce to help local residents access and better understand benefits and tax credits.

As part of the project four initial training sessions were arranged with Advice UK in July 2009. The training took place over two days, with the first day covering general advice giving skills and the second dealing with welfare benefits. This training was attended by 25 people. Later in the year we arranged tax credit advice sessions at the Havelock Family Centre and Dormers Wells Community Centre. These sessions were attended by 73 people from a wide mixture of ethnic backgrounds.

The 'Funding First' project simply confirmed the important role that the local voluntary sector can play in helping disadvantaged communities access quality advice services, as well as ensuring that local people could be trained to be competent advice providers.

West London BMER Network

Originally established in 2007, the West London BMER Network, is now a collaboration between SCA and Refugees in Effective & Active Partnership (REAP). The aim of the Network is to bring together groups from different west London boroughs and stimulate

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discussion about matters affecting the sector, identify policy issues and offer networking opportunities.

During 2009/10 meetings of the Network took place in Ealing, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow. In a departure from previous years the meetings in this period focussed upon similar issues, namely partnership working and commissioning. These themes stimulated much debate and produced some very interesting views and information from BMER group participants. Of course, meeting in different boroughs meant that groups from each host borough tended to form the bulk of attendees but not the whole audience. It was especially pleasing to see organisations attending meetings in different boroughs, a true reflection of the interest generated by meetings. On a related note both SCA and REAP were pleased at the involvement of London wide organisations in Network meetings eg West London Working, Black Training & Enterprise Group, Minet, VCS Engage etc.



Jay Dasani of Lohana Community West London making an impertinent point during an Interfaith Coffee Morning discussion

The work to bring together BMER groups around issues which affect them is one of on-going importance. This is work that would not have been achieved without the support

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of West London Network and the humour and hard work of Sarah Crowther and Poornima Karunacadacharan from REAP.

SCA Accommodation

Since 2003 SCA has enjoyed the wide benefits of having office space that has been large enough to support not only us but many of our partner organisations. Much of our work and many of our achievements can be attributed to the security and certainty provided by that base. SCA originally acquired the property on a 7 year lease, due to expire in September 2010, and one of our main tasks in 2009/10 was therefore to secure a resolution to our future accommodation needs.

The SCA offices were originally owned by LBE but in 2008 the building and adjoining properties were sold at auction to new owners. Despite approaches to the new landlords regarding a possible lease extension, as the year progressed, it became clear that remaining at 10 High Street was looking increasingly unlikely.

SCA then engaged in discussions with LBE about a move to another site. These discussions covered a number of options, with a move to the Southall Town Hall seeming the most viable. The very helpful discussions with LBE centred on finding an appropriate balance between the space needed for LBE staff and that required by user groups wishing to access hot desk space. These discussions are continuing and part of an on-going and constructive dialogue with LBE about voluntary sector accommodation needs in Southall.

SCA Board

As ever, the stability of SCA is not only a result of having a physical base but a consequence of good management and comprehensive oversight by the SCA Board of Trustees. The Board currently consists of 13 individuals who all represent different organisations and all are elected for a three year period.

The scrutiny and excellent support provided by the Board has long held SCA in good stead and affirmed our good relations with other local groups. However, the year saw a number of changes amongst the honorary members, most notably the replacement of Balvinder Chahal and Dilbagh Chana, as Vice Chair and Treasurer respectively. Both Mrs Chahal and Mr Chana have provided the office with wonderful support over the years and their contributions to SCA are well known and much valued.

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The remaining honorary officers to whom we are grateful include : Harsev Bains (Chair), Amar Chadha (Vice Chair), Michael Bolley (Treasurer) and Amir Fouladvand (Secretary).

The Future

There appears to be a growing consensus within the voluntary sector that 2011/12 is likely to be a watershed for many community based groups. The difficult financial plight of many organisations will lead to some groups facing severe difficulties in continuing to provide locally needed services. This is a situation that may be exacerbated by a subtle shift away from grant funding to commissioning of services. The important point to remember is that the constant focus upon the needs of groups simply deflects attention away from what those groups need resources for, namely to provide much needed support services to Ealing residents.

Clearly connected to the issue of funding is the growing difficulty in accessing venues and spaces from which to deliver activities. The sale of the Southall Community Centre and general lack of alternative community spaces has caused many groups and communities to experience real dislocation in Southall. Certainly this is a live issue for many SCA user groups who will need to find alternative accommodation following SCA's move away from our current location.

In spite of these pressing concerns there is also a growing acceptance that area based solutions are the ones that are likely to generate the most sustainable benefits to residents in the current economic climate. The experience of SCA has been that local people know and trust local groups to help them with their daily needs and to resolve their immediate problems. This is a model that needs to be supported across Ealing, as providing better value for money and clearer outcomes than other models of support.

SCA's role in the coming year will be to continue providing services based upon locally identified need. Of course, the move to a new location will temporarily restrict the range of services we can provide but this will still involve capacity building services for groups. In order to encourage groups to become more resilient we need to urge greater collaboration and foster innovative ways of working jointly. In real terms this could mean mergers with groups working together to provide advice services, youth activities, educational projects etc.

In amidst the gloom there are chinks of light and may still be valuable opportunities for the voluntary sector. The new and emerging agenda around 'the Big Society'

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emphasises social responsibility and community action and will involve devolving powers to communities and local government and allowing voluntary organisations a greater role in public service delivery. This strategy is still to be defined but the mention of devolved powers and increasing public participation in civic life may be of direct relevance to many community groups.



An impromptu dance session at a Cultural Food Event at Dormers Wells Community Centre, funded by a London Catalyst health project.

There is no doubt that although 2009/10 has been a very successful year for SCA the organisation faces key future challenges. It is reassuring that with our growing network of stakeholders we have partners who are all prepared to work together to help tackle these collective obstacles. In order to navigate our way through these challenges SCA will need to demonstrate flexibility and resilience, perhaps by making a subtle shift away from capacity building of organisations to a more service delivery oriented model. Certainly whatever the eventual strategy that is adopted, we are confident and realistic about the changes that SCA and all voluntary organisations will have to respond to in coming years.

Administrative Officers Report 2009/10

Since my employment with Southall Community Alliance commenced in April 2006, I have witnessed how both the organisation and the Resource Centre have been consistently busy, delivering much needed services and projects to the community in Southall. In that respect, 2009 / 10 has been no different.

SCA has seen numerous new users access our services for a wide variety of reasons and I continue to enjoy working directly with the local community. On a day-to-day basis I have the pleasure of meeting with and assisting people from such diverse backgrounds and with such diverse issues and the work of our user groups and helpdesks have been fundamental in supporting the residents of the London Borough of Ealing with their various queries.

As busy as the year has been for the Centre itself, the same has obviously applied to the staff, including myself. At the beginning of 2010, SCA was approached by Ealing Council regarding a national scheme ; the Future Jobs Fund. The aim of the scheme was to work closely with Jobcentre plus and prospective employers to provide employment for young people aged 18-24 on jobseekers allowance with a view to get them into work with local authorities paying their wages for 6 month contracts. It was through this scheme that on behalf of SCA, I interviewed, recruited and trained Babie Kapoor, SCA's receptionist and admin assistant. I have thoroughly enjoyed working closely with Babie to monitor her progress and help develop her skills in office administration. Her background in IT has meant she has been a valuable resource in helping some of the groups we work with to create websites to promote the work they are doing.

Over the past year, there were a number of memorable events that were arranged by SCA. One of the key themes for our funding involved working with women from different faith backgrounds and in particular, a women's only 'Talk Up' event we held in partnership with Acton Community Forum in March, was extremely successful. The aim of the event was to bring together women from all walks of life to talk about their experiences of migrating to the UK and due to the impressive turnout, of over 80 women, the evening was exactly that.; women of all ages, races, ethnicity, religion and interests attended and the evening was filled with lots of interaction and the sharing of interesting and personal stories. I found the insight gained in this project particularly useful as I also volunteer as a Domestic Violence support worker with Victim Support and found it useful to hear first-hand how women who have newly migrated to a host country can feel isolated and unsure.

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At the beginning of the year, myself and my colleague Suki put together a funding bid to the Home Office Community Fund for a project working with up to 10 young people at risk of becoming involved in gun or knife crime and were successful. We are currently still running the project at SCA and, in partnership with BBA Media, are providing media training to the young people involved, the project has been progressing well and we look forward to working with the young people in the near future when we will be delivering in-house leadership training to them. This has been one of the many projects I have been involved in helping to coordinate activities for.

Sadly, this year has been my last with SCA as I will be relocating to Leicester in October 2010. Having been with the organisation for over 4 years, I will take away so many good memories of the times I have shared with our groups, the staff and our Board of Trustees. Working for SCA and so closely with the community in Southall has been a wonderful learning curve and I hope to take away this wealth of knowledge I have gained and apply it to my future employment.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish SCA the best of luck with the forthcoming changes and for the continuation of all the brilliant work they have undertaken since their establishment. I look forward to visiting you all in the near future and I am sure SCA will continue to grow and develop to meet the community's needs.

Savita Vaid
Administrative Officer

BMER Fundraising Project Annual Report

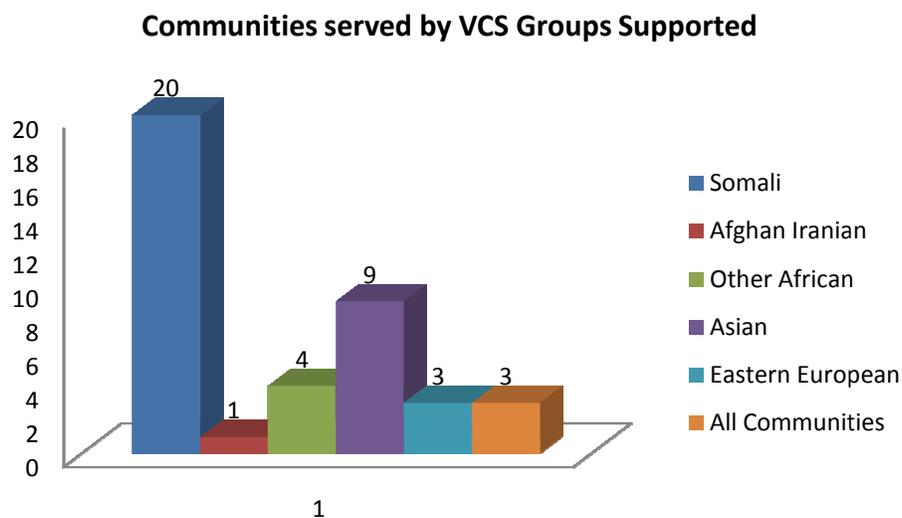
2009-2010 has been an exciting year for the fundraising project, which has been funded by London Borough Ealing. Once again the project has exceeded its targets in terms of groups supported and outcomes achieved. The BMER Fundraising Project aims to offer groups in around Southall with developmental as well as fundraising support including the following :

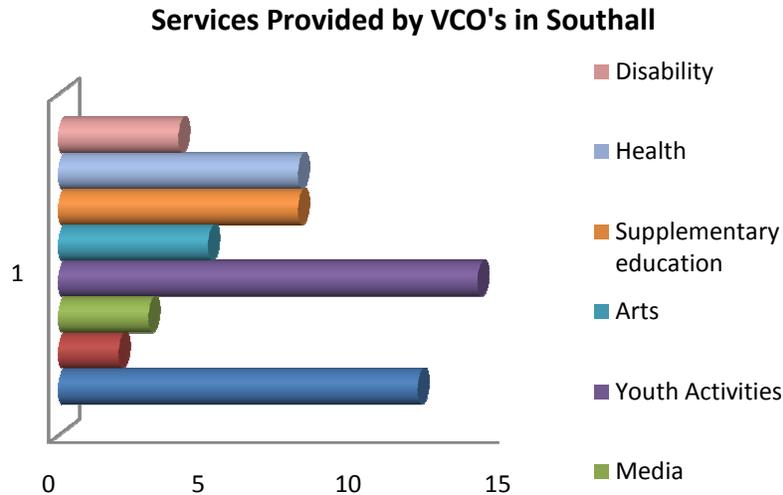
- Setting up a Voluntary or community Group
- Developing policies and procedures
- Budgeting & Book Keeping
- Charity registration & annual returns
- Drafting funding applications and preparing for interviews with funders
- Training
- Implementing Quality Assurance Systems

In terms of specific work over the last year the BMER Fundraising Project has:

- Supported over 40 VCS groups in Southall
- Supported two groups to begin implementing PQASSO as a Quality Assurance System
- 43 funding applications have been drafted and submitted
- £515,380 pounds of funding has been secured for groups in and around Southall

VCO's served by BMER Fundraising project





Partnership Work

For the past few years there has been a growing need for groups to work more collaboratively to ensure that both competition for funding is reduced and also to ensure that services are more effective. Although in previous years only small successes have been achieved in terms of encouraging groups to work together, 2009-2010 presented new opportunities which lent themselves to partnership brokering, which has meant the BMER fundraising project has been able to cover new ground in its attempt to secure funding for the BMER VCS sector.

Migrant Impact Fund

In summer 2009 the Migration Impact Fund, an Initiative of the Government Office for London, became available. The purpose of the fund was to assess and provide solutions to the transitional impacts of migration and over five and a half million pounds was allocated for London boroughs to apply for. No fixed amount had been allocated to each borough but applicants needed to make a clear case for funds based on need and migration data for their locality.

SCA was contacted by LBE's external fundraising team and we agreed to develop a health based proposal looking at the health needs of new communities and the challenges these posed for frontline health services. In partnership with NHS Ealing, the proposal included a number of initiatives based on local health data amongst these were:

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- Community based health screening and health advice
- Programmes of support for unaccompanied minors from Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran
- Community based health advice for elderly people from the South Asian Community
- GP registration support
- Community based Refugee Health worker
- Support and guidance for expectant/new mothers from migrant communities

The original two year proposal amounted to a package of support costing £150,000 per annum. London Borough Ealing was awarded a lesser amount in autumn 2009 for the health package, as well as a package of support around educational attainment for young people from migrant communities. This is a great accomplishment for the borough and for SCA as the process of application was very competitive and only these two aspects of the proposal were funded.

FGM Special Initiative

Autumn 2009 also presented a great opportunity for SCA to develop a partnership project with LBE, Acton Community Forum and the Tallo Information Centre. The City Parochial Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Rosa (the UK Fund for Women and Girls), three independent charitable organisations, have collaborated to establish a new UK-wide Special Initiative to fund community based, preventive work to safeguard children from the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

The initiative is supporting organisations based within practicing communities and approximately £1million has been invested in 15 organisations throughout the UK over a three-year period. The partnership proposal submitted by our Ealing based partnership has been successful and an award of £80,000 has been made to this project. The project started in January 2010 with the recruitment of a project coordinator and a volunteer, who are now working extensively across the borough to fulfill the ambitions of this project which include, raising awareness of FGM and the law surrounding this, carrying out attitudes surveys, running workshops with parents and professionals and also establishing a media based platform locally for this issue.

This is a very exciting project for SCA as most of the projects that were funded were women's organisations. SCA has delivered some projects to women, but this is a national initiative, the first of it's kind in the UK and is being lead by many inspirational people, including Baroness Ruth Rendell, who are working to challenge the practice of FGM at an international level.

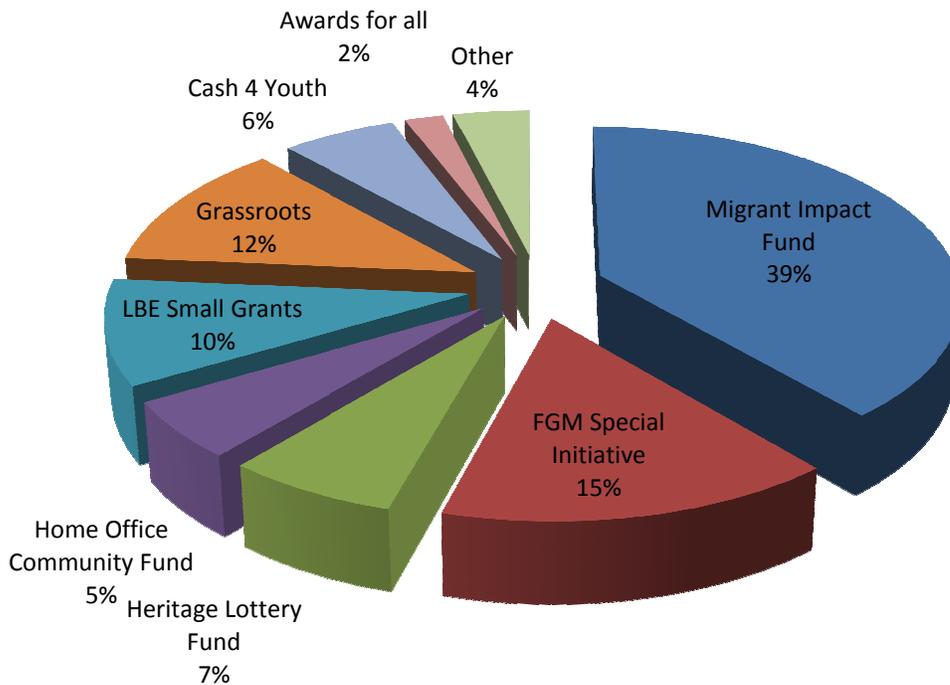
Investment in Southall's BMER VCO's

Unlike previous years the BMER Fundraising Project has been able to draw down larger sums of money through fundraising due to a number of larger partnership organisation's. Although a large number of small grants were still submitted the partnership projects clearly show a more effective way of working both for groups and for the BMER fundraising project. In this period successful grants amounted to £515,538.00.

SOURCE OF FUNDING

Funder	£
Migrant Impact Fund	200,000.00
FGM project	80,000.00
Heritage Lottery Fund	35,000.00
Home Office Community Fund	28,000.00
Small Grants	50,860.00
Grassroots	61,678.00
Cash 4 Youth	30,000.00
Awards for all	10,000.00
Other	20,000.00
TOTAL	515,538.00

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Project Development

I continue to provide support to groups who want to implement PQASSO as a quality assurance system and am currently supporting two organisations prepare for review and accreditation. Implementing a quality system can seem daunting but quite often organisations have most of what they need in place and the process involves consolidating this work and most importantly becoming aware of what you have available, what needs to be reviewed or updated and what aspirations we have for the future. I have begun supporting Ealing & Brentford Consolidated Charity to carry out their self assessment which has included delivering training on PQASSO to their staff, trustees and volunteers.

I have also delivered a number of training sessions for TIDE, for whom I volunteer. The courses I have delivered to date include, Effective Meeting Skills, Identifying Need & Community Research Skills. I have a number of training days to deliver over the next year some of which will be specifically catering to the needs of Southall based groups. This is an area of work I am keen to develop as part of my role at SCA

Future Challenges

Over the last year the BMER Fundraising project has delivered over and above targets set by funders and targets set in previous years. I believe the project has taken a huge leap forward in terms of supporting partnerships and collaborations and I am hoping this is a trend that continues in the following years.

The project still continues to support a number of new groups each year which is problematic in terms of overall capacity and the sustainability of such groups; however the more robust organisations, which have a proven track record and history of managing money are, inevitably, more attractive investment prospects for funders. Where possible, new groups should research their area of work well before setting up, particularly to establish genuine need and genuine solutions which are not available elsewhere. I have been able to assist with this process but ultimately it is up to the groups themselves to decide whether what they are proposing to do is realistic and sustainable.

Despite the achievements of the BMER Fundraising project, it does not have a secure future and is in the same position as most other projects in Southall, we are currently working hard to secure a future for the project beyond 2010-2011 and we are optimistic that the project has proved beyond doubt that it provides value for money and has a clear role to play in the future of the VCS in Southall.

On a final note I would like to thank all the groups I have worked with over the year and look forward to working with you all again next year. I would also like to extend these thanks to Janpal Basran, Savita Vaid, Babbi Kapoor, Dheg Aidid & Bishara Mohamed who make SCA a great place to work in and develop professionally.

Suki Kaur
BMER Fundraising Officer

Supplementary Schools Co-ordinator

For over two years SCA has been working on a project to assist supplementary schools in Ealing. The project was initially conceived by Acton Community Forum and looked to assist supplementary schools in Acton and West Ealing but the project, elements of which are funded by both Ealing Children's Fund and the John Lyons Charity, has been expanded to cover a wider geographical area and thus by definition reach out to more supplementary schools.

The changing nature of local demographics has seen the emergence of a growing supplementary schools sector in Ealing devoted to improving the educational attainment of children from a diverse array of backgrounds and keen to develop links with mainstream schools. Given this growth the project was able to offer capacity building support to different schools, ensure compliance with quality standards and developed on-going links with Ealing Education Department.

One of the key achievements of the project has been to support the growth of the Ealing Supplementary Schools Consortium. Originally the consortium consisted of a number of groups working with children and their families across some of the most deprived areas of Ealing. This initial stage of the project therefore involved such familiar names as the Tallo Centre, Caribbean Parents Group, Education and Social Group, Acton Vale Somali Community, Cuthbert Carter Supplementary School etc. But, in addition to this core base the year also saw the Consortium looking to expand and possibly incorporate as many as forty new members, representing young people from Somali, African Caribbean, Iranian, Russian, Armenian, Afghan, Tamil etc backgrounds.

Increasingly funders prepared to support supplementary schools were making it clear that future resourcing for groups had to be linked to quality assurance compliance. This has begun to emerge as a critical issue for local supplementary schools and it was therefore very gratifying when all the core members of the local Consortium were able to ensure compliance with the Quality Framework for Supplementary Schools, which is delivered through the National Resource Centre and Contin You.

Some of the key achievements of the project throughout the year have included :

- Children at Key Stage 1,2 & 3 from diverse ethnic and faith backgrounds receiving support to improve their attainment. The majority of children were 7-14 years old and came from schools in Southall or Acton.
- Increasing number of children from BME backgrounds receiving quality educational support eg Between April-June 2009 alone over 300 children attended supplementary schools

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- Over 60 support meetings have been held with many supplementary schools to help with their attaining the Quality Framework. Some of the groups supported include : Education & Social Group Homework Club, Cuthbert Carter Supplementary School, Bahar Centre, British Keralites Association, Zam Zam, Kalkal, Armenian Community Pre-School Group, Tallo Information Centre, Ealing Arabic School, Somali Aid & Development Association, Teish Homework Club, Acton Vale Supplementary School, Znaniye, Sofale, Caribbean Parents Group, Lifeline Learning etc
- Carried out skills audit to analyse training needs of supplementary schools and secure training where gaps were identified. Training was arranged for groups on first aid training, partnership working, child protection etc
- Linked supplementary schools with the Schools Improvement Partnership, raising awareness of the work of groups working particularly with African-Caribbean children to headteachers
- Raised the profile of supplementary schools and their links with mainstream schools through the preparation of a supplementary schools directory. The directory was launched in April 2009
- Developed a promotional newsletter explaining the work of the supplementary schools consortium and sharing this with newly identified schools and stakeholders to provide better networking and information sharing links
- Improving the quality of teaching at supplementary schools by arranging regular meetings of the Supplementary Schools Consortium, regularly informing members of training and developmental opportunities, supporting groups through the Quality Framework for Supplementary Schools etc
- Supporting the work of Southall and Acton based supplementary schools at Ealing Council's Somali Achievement Conference
- The BMER Fundraising Workers based at SCA and Acton Community Forum have supported many supplementary schools with funding bids and in receiving training that has helped to sustain the schools and their core work

The work of the project has really gathered momentum over the past year and there are very encouraging signs that supplementary schools themselves are now realising the benefits of partnership working, particularly as a strategy for dealing with the funding uncertainties that face them. The future may offer some harsh realities for many organisations but the development of a positive model of support for local supplementary schools bodes well for the future, as does the growing appreciation of the work that these schools deliver amongst the statutory sector.

As an annual reflection upon our work we need to appreciate the wonderful assistance provided by our funders, particularly mentioning Danielle Grant-Vest at the Ealing Children's Fund and Erik Mesel, Grants and Public Policy Manager, from the John Lyons Charity.

FGM Project – ‘Breaking the Silence’

One of the breakthrough projects that SCA has been involved in is “Breaking the Silence”. This is an Ealing based project that tackles the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (female circumcision). Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is commonly practiced mainly in a geographical belt reaching from East to West Africa, North of the Equator. The practice is known across socio-economic classes and among different ethnic, religious and cultural groups.

This project is funded by the City Parochial Foundation, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Rosa and is designed to raise awareness to professional bodies and to communities that practice and are affected by FGM.



Radio skills training for Muslim Women arranged by BBA Media as part of the Faiths in Action project

Southall Community Alliance (SCA), in partnership with Acton Community Forum (ACF) and the Tallo Centre, are supporting a borough-wide strategy for the prevention and sustainable rejection of FGM. Capitalising on our extensive connections with local community organisations, considerable reach into practising communities, and track

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record of partnership work with local statutory partners, SCA has appointed Dheg Aidid as the FGM Project Officer and Bishara Mohamud as a FGM support volunteer. As the senior project officer Dheg's primary role is to facilitate and co-ordinate community based activities across the borough. These activities include arranging awareness raising activities, providing support for women and girls who are affected and at risk of FGM and to deliver outreach sessions for women to change attitudes and behaviour on FGM.

Achievements

- The work of the project is overseen by a project Steering Group that meets quarterly. This group involves SCA, Acton Community Forum, Tallo Centre, LBE and the African Well Women's Service.
- Working with the African Well Women's Service to deliver training. The project has also recruited five volunteers to raise awareness of FGM related issues. We have specifically designed workshops that are addressing FGM issues and raising awareness within the target audience. Overall the project has delivered well and trained volunteers from different background and with different experience.
- FGM project is getting wider publicity as it has been publicised through Somali media i.e. Somali On Air, Somali Websites, as well as within VCO Groups, Ealing Community Network, Ealing PCT, local shops, Acton Mosque's, GPs and relevant centres i.e. Acton Health Centre.
- Angie Bray, MP for Ealing Central and Acton, has also raised the projects profile through her maiden speech in Parliament, pointing out the beneficial nature of this project.
- Number of beneficiaries has gone up since the FGM project has started.
- Outreach work has been delivered throughout Acton and Southall with young girls and women.
- We are also working with the London Metropolitan Police, to raise awareness around FGM at London Heathrow airport.

Views from partners

MiNet

It's often easy to simplify, minimise and take for granted the value of information and time an organisation working locally, in direct contact with individuals and community groups is willing to contribute in itself, but more so to help inform policy work which does not have an immediate benefit to their own work. SCA is a locally based organisation with a strong grasp of the implications of policy which due to the level at which they operate is crucial to a regional organisation like MiNet. I find it personally encouraging to see that SCA have both this combined commitment and understanding and to have each employee prepared to be friendly in offering their time.

From my experience of visiting organisations frequently across London it is clear SCA are involved in activities which are beneficial to service users rather than organizational prestige. SCA's important role in jointly leading and investing time to facilitate the BMER sub-regional network accentuates this. SCA have played a role historically and more recently in MiNet's work and I'm keen to see this develop and be strengthened where possible. I'm grateful for the relationship with SCA over the past year and I wish SCA and its entire staff the best for the years ahead.

Anthony Salla
MiNet Coordinator

London Borough of Ealing

Over the past year SCA have played an important role in co-ordinating and overseeing some excellent projects, whilst helping to strengthen the infrastructure of voluntary and community sector activity in Southall, and working with partners across the Local Strategic Partnership to ensure we make the most from all that activity.

The positive and "can-do" attitude of SCA makes them an exciting organisation to work with; clearly this annual report reflects a lot of hard work on the part of some very dedicated individuals over the last year.

Matthew Booth
Director of Policy and Performance

A Rocha

Since my association with Southall Community Alliance (SCA) I have been able to expand my networking and contacts with the local community groups. Without doubt, SCA is innovative and support centre where one can get information, training, marvelous facilities and space for networking and dialogue. Indeed, SCA act as a common platform where all the local community groups forge an alliance and support one another. We in A Rocha (faith-based environmental organisation) have worked closely with SCA since our first project (Living Waterways) and benefited immensely in various ways.

Through working closely-Southall Community Alliance (SCA) has become one of our references and a focal point of sending information to wider communities. As a faith-based community worker for A Rocha I feel supported in different ways. I must mention my deep sense of appreciation to SCA contribution towards A Rocha's community event 2009 in sponsoring a Gazebo, also SCA's inter-faith coffee morning is proving to be a platform for building bridges and friendship for A Rocha's inter-faith environmental work.

From my personal perspective Southall Community Alliance (SCA) is continuing to accomplish their mission statement in bringing together voluntary and community groups, business and local residents in addressing various local issues. All the staff are brilliant! A special vote of thanks is owed to Janpal Basran, Savita Vaid and Suki Kaur who are the pioneer in this mission.

Kailean Khongsai
Faith-based Communities officer

Asian Music Arts

Since I decided to pursue community work, Southall Community Alliance have been most supportive. I could never have achieved what I have without the help of SCA and I am where I am today working in the field of community work because of their support. They are very efficient in their work and are always on hand to give information and help fill-up forms. If I've needed any help, they been always there for me.

In my honest opinion, to have this sort of support locally is very handy to both myself and the local community who have benefited greatly from SCA. I personally appreciate their work very much. Keep it up and all the best for the future.

Nishi Malhotra
Artist

SCA Board Members



Harsev Bains (Chair)



Amar Chadha (Vice Chair)



Amir Fouladvand (Company Secretary)



Michael Bolley (Treasurer)



Jayasree Syamlal



Abdullahi Osman



Dilbagh Singh Chana



Ravi Jain



George Twyman



Promila Bhatia



Carl Johnson



Balvinder Kaur Chahal



Ahmed Hagi Mohamed

SCA Staff

Janpal Basran	Manager
Savita Vaid	Administrative Officer
Babie Kapoor	Receptionist / Admin Assistant
Suki Kaur	BMER Fundraising and Development Officer
Khalil Ur Rahim	Supplementary Schools Coordinator
Dheg Aidid	FGM Project Officer
Bishara Mohamud	FGM Support Volunteer



L to R: D.Aidid, S Kaur, B.Mohamud, J.Basran, B.Kapoor, S.Vaid, K.U.Rahim

Partnerships in which SCA has been involved 2009 / 2010

1. Stronger Communities Board
2. Refugees in Effective & Active Partnership
3. Ealing Voluntary Sector Liaison Forum
4. Ealing Race Hate Crime Group
5. Council, Business and Community Partnerships Standing Scrutiny Panel
6. Ealing Community Network
7. Southall Connect
8. PCT Equalities Steering Group
9. West London BMER Network
10. Planning and Community Working Group
11. Development Workers Group
12. Change Up Working Group
13. Independent Advisory Group

SCA Services

SCA is a policy coordinating body for residents and businesses in the Southall area to support community initiatives in partnerships including with the Local Authority.

- Free hotdesks with IT facilities for community groups
- Networking opportunities – Southall & West London
- Community Cohesion project
- Health & nutrition classes
- Youth activities

Supporting and making accessible learning opportunities, funding, community group development and health services for disadvantaged and minority groups.

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