



***“For Tomorrows Young  
People, Today”***



# Annual Report

## 2017/18



Charity Registration: 1129378  
Company Limited By Guarantee: 04543565

## **Chairs Forward**

Tower Hamlets young people have seen a huge cut in vital youth provisions and youth services and we at Ocean Youth Connexions have been trying our best to address those needs and wants of young people through their journey from adolescence to independence. OYC has proven itself to be an essential part of young people's lives in the two areas we are currently working in, by continuing to fund and develop new innovative projects. We have through co-production and co-designing programmes, implemented new ideas and initiatives to attract engage and positively involve more young people. The team have excelled themselves every year in providing a safe space where young people can be themselves, actively participate and enjoy in making Ocean Youth Connexions the place to be Monday to Saturday with its varied activities. We have become a medium sized charity and growing slowly relying heavily on the generosity of our funders and business donors. We are extremely grateful for all the funding, grants, contributions and donations we have received throughout 2017/18 that has allowed us to run two Youth Clubs covering five evenings, one Junior Club on two afternoons, three football training sessions, one Taekwondo Club, one study support class, a summer programme and two outreach and detached teams to deal with the rise of knife crime in the borough.

On behalf of the Management Committee and all the people involved with making this organisation struggle to deliver its aims and objectives to the community, I would like to personally thank them all wholeheartedly for their work, effort and positivity.

OYC's financial situation has continued to improve and larger grants are being secured and this is down to the hard work of the Project Coordinator Kamal Ahmed and the Service Contract Manager Adnan Miah, in delivering creative projects that funders are willing to fund. Kamal has been managing the organisations finance, preparing budgets to increase efficiency in financial management and accountability as well as providing regular updates. We must also thank him for updating the organisational policies and create the new GDPR policy and Privacy Statement.

We are always looking for new possibilities for expanding this grassroots organisation and the service we provide with long term secured funding, but it will need the support of our current funders to continue to have faith in the positive work we are delivering. Our Management Committee will continue to support the team to develop Ocean Youth Connexions so that even more young people can benefit in other areas of Tower Hamlets. I am very proud to be part of this team, this organisation and look forward to another great year.

I have continued to receive positive feedback from the community and young people that attend our projects. We have helped so many local young people find jobs in the retail sector, security industry and the leisure industry and this makes me feel proud.

I thank the management committee, dedicated staff team and the young people for their continued commitment, dedication and support to OYC's vision, aims and future.

Abdul Munim  
(Chairperson)

## **Board of directors 2017/18**

Chairperson:	Abdul Munim
Secretary:	Mohammed Abdul Ahad
Treasurer:	Abdul Mu'min Yahya
Trustee:	Mohammed Moznu Miah
Trustee:	Shahin Ullah
Trustee:	Rahan Miah
Trustee:	Imdadur Rahman
Members:	Anwar Hussin
Members:	Mohammed Abdul Gofur

## **Honorary Supporters of OYC**

- Brenda Daley and Derek England - Chairperson and Committee member, Ocean Estates Tenants Leaseholders Association
- Robert Gibson and Aminul Hoque – London Borough of Tower Hamlets Careers: Learning and Achievements
- Akik Miah – Secretary Stepney Foundation
- Ishaque Uddin – Secretary, Stepney Fathers Group
- Dr Elizabeth Venables – Trustee, Stepney City Farm
- Nahimul Islam – Chairperson - Wapping Youth FC
- Sennie Emanuel and Neros Augustus – Pro-AM Development
- Master Shujahat Fiaz, Instructor Junjian Zheng – Team DJB Taekwondo

# **Ocean Youth Connexions**

## **Reporting period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

### **Staff team**

Mohammed Kamal Ahmed:	Project Coordinator
Mohammed Adnan Miah:	Service Contract Manager
Rajmina Begum:	Girls and women Youth Support Worker
Ruma Zaman:	Girls and women Youth Support Worker
Syeda Farjana Ali:	Girls and women Youth Support Worker
Abu Tahir	MOPAC Outreach Worker
Fokrul Islam	MOPAC Outreach Worker
Junel Ahmed	MOPAC Outreach Worker
Mozahid Hoque	MOPAC Outreach Worker
Hamza Ahmed	Taekwondo Instructor
Mark Louis Norman	Taekwondo Instructor
Feruj Ali	Youth Support Worker
Hobbibur Rahman	Youth Support Worker
Imran Khan:	Youth Support Worker
Kamrul Islam	Youth Support Worker
Mehmet Hasan	Youth Support Worker
Meryem Day	Youth Support Worker
Zurain Hussein	Youth Support Worker
Mosammat Rafia	Volunteer
Muhammed Ali Zubair	Volunteer

### **Number of registered young people:**

We currently have over 500 registered members as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### **Programme and activities for 2017/18**

- Youth Club Sessions at Ocean Estates TLA Tuesday & Thursday
- Junior Club sessions at Ocean Estates TLA Wednesday and Fridays
- Youth Club session at Caxton Hall Monday, Wednesday & Friday
- Football training sessions: Tuesdays, Central Sports Hall, Friday & Saturdays, Mile End Astro
- Study support sessions every Saturday Sporting Foundation
- A Six week summer programme exclusive for girls and women only in the afternoon and an open access for all in the evening
- Intergenerational Community Funday with BBQ and Fundraising
- Olympic Taekwondo Art session at Mulberry Sport Centre
- Annual Football tournament at Mile End Astro
- Residential and accredited training courses

## **Youth Club Sessions Ocean Estates TLA (OETLA)**

Ocean Estates Tenants & Leaseholders Association is where the majority of our youth club activities takes place and we take this opportunity to thank Tower Hamlets Mainstream Grant who have funded the sessions till September 2019, Ocean Regeneration Trust that funded the Junior Club and summer programme, Tower Hill Trust and the BBC Children In Need that funded the summer staff and the BBC, funding for Saturday Tuition class. The Jack Petchy Foundation has allowed us to have funds for trips, social gatherings and purchasing equipment and making it a fun and exciting place to be. We held various in-house competitions throughout the year, engaged young people in cooking healthy alternatives, organised workshops and seminars on gangs, drugs and knife crime, provided arts and craft classes and activities and utilised the boroughs summer programme of activities in the park.



We took part in organising our annual Parliament Week in November 2017 and the Vote 100 in June where we spoke about the importance of voting in the forth coming local elections. We also held an event commemorating the history of the voting right given to women 100 years ago and understanding the history of the struggle women took to get the right to vote in the UK. We also used the opportunity to look at solutions to our local anti social behaviour problems and our MOPAC knife crime funding for young people to tackle the spree of knife crime in Tower Hamlets.



We have on average 18 young people attending our youth provisions and around 14 young people attending our Junior Club sessions daily. We are seeing a growing trend amongst young people who used to attend youth clubs that do not want to engage with youth workers and youth clubs during the term time as most of them have got a PS4 at home and play online, plus they have WIFI at home allowing them to chat with their friends without any restrictions.

We are dealing with an online generation, where everyone has a phone and access to a tablet and young people have become addicted to social media, gaming apps on their phones and playing on the PS4 all this at the comfort of their own homes. Through our outreach activities we hardly see young people out and about, not even using the parks and the new outdoor gym and a lot of parents are concerned about the recent increase in knife crime and this could be one of the possible reason why.

We have a different age range of young people that attend our facilities and our connection within the community has seen a lot of younger people from different backgrounds accessing the club sessions, but we are still lacking on female participation during normal term time sessions. The organisation will look into providing a session exclusively for the girls through funding opportunities.

We recently bought gym equipment for weight training and body toning and saw this to be a popular choice amongst the older boys who are using the weights and are competing with each other to look good throughout summer. We also provided an opportunity for one of our young people who started cutting people's hair in his house and then was asked to use the club. This attracted a good number of people to the club making it feel busy. We discussed about hygiene and cleanliness of equipment and ensured that no sharps such as scissors or blades were used. Our young person later found work in a barber shop and made his name Barber "J", he hopes to open up his own Barber shop in the future.

We also have successfully manage to get six of our young people who were engaged in illegal criminal activities to give up their activity and encouraged them back to mainstream education, take up training and getting themselves employed. This is our real success story of the year and we hope that they continue for the long run and encourage their peers.

We have also seen more young people focused on their tests and exam results than previously and these young people do not attend our youth provisions during term time but attend during the Easter and Summer period making the club very busy during those periods.



# Community BBQ and Summer Splash



This year we were funded by the BBC Children In Need, Tower Hill Trust and Ocean Regeneration Trust to run a six week summer programme.

We organised an earlier session between 11am and 3pm for girls and young women and those young people that were 8-12 years of age and then in the afternoon between 4pm and 8pm, where we organised an open access session for those that were 12 -19year old. Our summer was jam packed with a host of varied activities and trips. We organised two trips every week one for each of the projects and we held a community BBQ at our centre, with bouncy castles, face art, mendhi art, and nail art sessions.

Our summer activities included indoor pool, table tennis, PS3, PS4 competitions, Free gym sessions, hair cutting services from Barber J, face painting, mendhi application, nail design, cycling and smoothie making, textile, puppet making, hema beads design and a whole lot of other activities. We had over 60 young people attend our summer programme throughout the school holiday period which is better than last year..

We organised a variety of trips during the summer for young people to participate and enjoy, Bowling, cinema, ice-skating, London Zoo, swimming and Thorpe Park as well as a picnic in the park. All our trips were oversubscribed and fully attended.



The summer programme was a great success and we had a lot of new young people that engaged and participated for the first time. We were very busy on most days, there were a lot of different types of cooking sessions with different dishes from fried to dried foods to healthy options such a juicing to full fat meals and shakes. Young people enjoyed themselves and commented very positively in the end of summer evaluation forms.

Two locals volunteered their time and helped us organise the main community fun day event where every young person enjoyed the celebration with a massive BBQ, Bouncy castle and a host of play activities.

# Bow East Project (Caxton Hall)

We were successful in securing a youth service contract bid to deliver youth club activities in the Bow West Area for another one year period October 2017 to September 2018 with an extension to March 2019. This time the targets were higher than the previous year and with a lower available fund. With our contacts and collaboration with other organisations in the sports world and an attractive varied programme we planned to deliver this programme and achieve our targets. Our target was to achieve 400 contacts, 240 participants, 144 recorded outcomes and train 72 young people with accredited training. At the time of this report we achieved the end of year targets were issued an extension to the end of March 2019.

This funding has allowed us to deliver a much needed vital service at the Caxton Hall, Bow East Area where services of this type are non-existent unlike other parts of the borough. We have recruited staff that live in the area and employed a female staff member to support the girls and women that attend. This programme has helped us to redevelop the area, and for young people to have access to a centre where they can feel welcomed, relaxed and safe. Thus enabling us to be able to improve the image of the area and make it a better place for everyone.



The aim is for young people to stay away from local negative behaviour, violent crime and knife crime and engage in positive activities that will Help Children Achieve More (HCAM), as well as improve their learning experience and personal outcomes during their journey from adolescence to independence.

We have worked closely with Key Workers in Tower Hamlets mainly Transition Support Workers and Youth Workpath as well as Detached and Response Team to ensure that our services were advertised well and that we have reached a wider audience especially those that were not engaging locally.

This year getting referrals for SEN young people, was a great challenge but we managed to attract them to the project and engaged them fully in our activities.

We went to the Isle of Wight with our Football Team and won the Sport Tour Football competition which was a great achievement. We will continue to apply for any new tenders to deliver youth provisions in the Bow West Area to continue to deliver the positive work that we have achieved over the last two years.



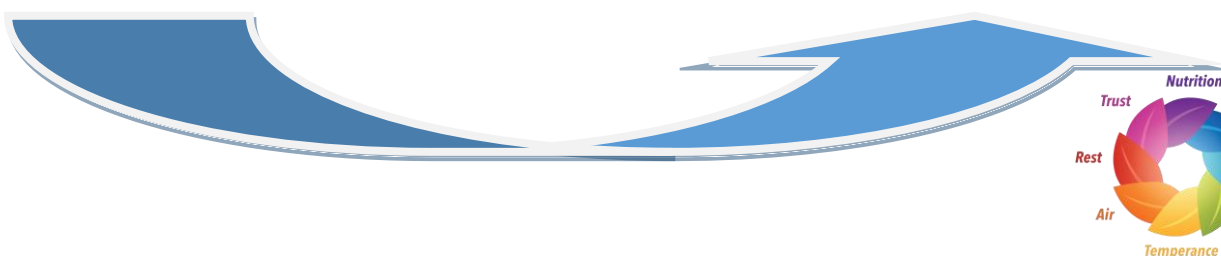


Funded by The Hill Dickens Foundation, The Cando Project, The Youth Innovation Fund and London Sport we managed to set up and deliver a brand new Taekwondo session every Wednesday from January 2018 till the end of March 2019. We have around 25 young people registered for the sessions and on average 18-20 young people attend regularly.

Delivering the Taekwondo sessions we have seen a great improvement on young people's personal behaviour, their attitude to each others, an increase in physical fitness levels, an improvement in individual eating habits and the project has made a great contribution to those young people suffering obesity levels. Young people are able to work together as a team, improve their communication skills and count in South Korean. Young people have become more creative, active and can express themselves better. The sessions have improved young people's ability to solve problems and deal with conflicts and difficult situations as well as we have seen a vast improvement in young people's resilience and self determination to learn, aspire and improve. We had one grading session this year where nine young people achieved their yellow tag belts and we will hopefully organise the next one in November 2018.



Our aim is to establish this Taekwondo session for the long run even if funding is not secured we will be talking to parents and young people about making a contribution to cover the cost of running the sessions and paying the tutors.



# **Ocean Regeneration Trust, Wakefield & Tetley Trust and BBC Children in Need Summer and Half term project delivery**

We have been successful and lucky this year to have received funding from the above three Trusts to deliver the Summer 2018 project as well as for two half term projects in February and Easter of 2019. We have delivered a fun and action packed, six week summer project from the Ocean Estates Tenants Association for young people aged 8-19 years. This was a result of our co-production efforts with young people to plan and implement a fantastic summer programme and identifying funders to make grant applications.



We had five qualified members of staff that were working on the project in two parts morning 11am-3pm and the afternoon 3pm to 8pm. The staff delivered a varied programme consisting of Arts and Craft, indoor social games and competitions, cooking sessions, knitting and textile, outdoor games and activities as well as day trips to the cinema, bowling centre, ice skating rink, Thorpe Park and the Zoo. The project attracted over 70 young people to the project and it was a very successful delivery programme. On average we had around 24 young people attending our sessions especially the girls and women that we worked with. This is a much needed programme as summer programmes are becoming almost becoming non-existent in Tower Hamlets.



THE WAKEFIELD & TETLEY TRUST

# Jack Petchey Funding

We are on the Silver Scheme and we have used the funding mainly towards purchasing, PS4 console, PS4 games, controllers, trips, BBQ, Eid gathering, Weight training equipment. We had a big social gathering with all of our young people and funded the grading fees for 10 of our taekwondo students. We have been granted by the foundation to continue with the silver scheme for 2018/19.



This year we spent last year's Leaders Award Grant funding on providing Taekwondo classes for our young people and this was very much enjoyed by them. We have nominated this year Zurain Hussein as our new Leader Award for being part of OYC since he was a young person, volunteered throughout the year, worked on the weekend football project and is now working in the evening youth club sessions.







## **Dr Bike**

We have been delivering Dr Bike Sessions to a few local youth clubs across Tower Hamlets and within our own Youth centre to repair young people's bikes and get them to cycle more and using their bikes to get to school.

We have continued to deliver free bike maintenance sessions as part of our commitment to get as many people cycling as possible especially during the summer period. We have also been exploring cycling routes in and around Tower Hamlets and have taken riders further afield using the designated cycle routes and the Greenway cycle routes through scenic places. Although we have not received any funding to maintain this project we will be collaborating with a few local charities that raise funds for charities using cycle routes to Margate, Brighton and the Cambridge bike ride as part of their fundraising programme and encourage young people to join, participate and take up a challenge to fundraise.

**“Wheel powering young people”**



## **MOPAC Outreach and Detached Intervention Work**

We were successful in securing a MOPAC knife crime funding grant to work with 60 young people from four different areas to deter them from using the knife as a means to committing violent crime and resolving conflicts between different groups of young people. We targeted to work in the Ocean Estates and Globe Town in the first part of this grant and the second part will follow in next year's annual report.

We have been very successful in working with two groups of young people in both areas and got them to engage with the local youth provisions from which we used to work on young people on a one to one basis. We started with street football as a means to build initial relationships and organised a BBQ and local trips. Our relationship with the young people was a positive one and we worked with them tirelessly to understand the consequences of carrying a knife and to engage them in positive activities within their communities.

The project saw some positive outcomes as we saw knife crime slightly drop and we managed to get five people into work, training and apprenticeships. We realised that drugs played an active role in young people's lives and choosing to use knives was a quick option.

**MAYOR OF LONDON**  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

## Financial Information 2017 – 2018

### Ocean Youth Connexions Ltd Company limited by guarantee Detailed trading profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
LB Tower Hamlets - PAYP	-	1,484
LB Tower Hamlets – MSG	15,000	15,000
LB Tower Hamlets - IYCS	85,000	74,999
Hill Dickinson	3,200	-
Tower Hill Trust	2,500	2,500
Jack Petchey	2,000	1,750
MOPAC	25,000	-
OYC contribution	1,041	173
BBC Children in Need	9,965	-
Societylinks	8,685	8,715
London Sport	480	-
Ocean regeneration Trust	5,000	5,000
Cando	500	500
Osmani Trust YIF	800	-
Young people's Contribution	-	85
Fundraising	<u>150</u>	<u>415</u>
	159,241	110,621
 <b>Administrative expenses</b>	 <u>(109,558)</u>	 <u>(90,476)</u>
 <b>Operating surplus/(loss)</b>	 <u>49,683</u>	 <u>21,145</u>

## Acknowledgments

- London Borough of Tower Hamlets:
  - Mainstream Grant for Youth Club Activities
  - Integrated Youth and Community Services for Bow West Youth Service contract to deliver five youth provisions
- The TFL Bikeability Scheme contractor Steer Gleave Davis for quality assurance monitoring
- BBC Children in Need for Funding for the summer project and study support
- Jack Petchey Foundation for funding trips, equipment social events and supporting young people
- Ocean Regeneration Trust for funding the Summer Winter and Easter SPLASH!
- Tower Hill trust for providing us with funding towards a six week summer programme
- Cando grant, London Sport, Osmani YIF and Hill Dickinson for providing funding for a new weekday Taekwondo Session
- MOPAC for funding the outreach and detached project for deterring young people from using the knife
- The residents, parents and young people of the Ocean Estates who have supported us to ensure we deliver positive activities and have made the project a success
- Ocean Tenant Leaseholders Association and Malmesbury Community Projects for allowing us to use their venue to deliver all of our activities
- We are a member of London youth and we have participated in their free training and funders fair

