



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

# Annual Report

## 2020/21



Charity Registration: 1129378  
Company Limited By Guarantee: 04543565

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## Chairs Foreword

We have witnessed a worldwide pandemic that has shaken the foundations of the world, impacting the world economy, visiting close ones, vacations people's daily routine. The world around us has changed and many youth provisions and youth services within the borough continue to remain closed since the first lockdown. However, we have tried our best to stay open after the various lockdowns and restrictions and have continued to deliver through new ways of youth work for the first time in our history, including going online.

We have witnessed young people entering our centres and provisions with masks, being told to sanitise and having their temperature checked before entry and staff running drills on the NHS track and trace in the event of an infection. We still await to see the affect this pandemic will have on the private and the voluntary sector with many small third sector organisations ending their operations after an era of delivery, the question remains as to who will be pick up the pieces.

OYC has become a part of young people's lives on the Ocean Estate and the Bow West area. This has only been possible through our dedicated and committed youth workers who to continue to work in those areas developing new and innovative project ideas to engage young people positively in the process. We have had four more additions to the team. One of our staff members has been greatly impacted by the COIVID-19 virus and we don't know yet when they will likely return to the team. We wish them a speedy recovery.

The two long lockdowns did not impact our finances rather we have moved back to our previous operating figures of 2018 and 2019 having been successful in many small and medium sized grants that supported our core activities. We are extremely grateful for all the funding, grants and donations we have received throughout the 2020/21 period which has allowed us to run four youth club sessions in two youth clubs, we delivered two major summer projects, one half term activity, three taekwondo clubs and a tuition class.

The organisation will revisit its long-term strategy, update its vision and Business Plan as a result of the new ways of working. I am thankful to the staff who worked during the pandemic and what it has achieved during a difficult time and look forward to a better, brighter and more prospective year.

OYC's financial situation is stable and we are in a good healthy position, the Project Coordinator with its two new kickstart recruits have actively been sourcing and securing funding to provide activities for young people and I personally thank them for the effort made.

I would like to thank all the board members for their help and support throughout this difficult year in attending online meetings and ensuring we stay active and making sure staff deliver the organisational aims and objectives to the community.

**Mohammed Abdul Ahad**  
**Chairperson, Ocean Youth Connexions**

## **Board of Directors 2020/21**

Chairperson:	Mohammed Abdul Ahad
Secretary:	Imran Khan
Treasurer:	Abdul Mu'min Yahya
Trustee:	Imdadur Rahman
Trustee:	Mohamed Musa
Trustee:	Shahin Ullah
Trustee:	Imran Khan
Members:	Anwar Hussin
Members:	Mohammed Abdul Gofur
Members:	Mohammed Adnan Miah

## **Honorary Supporters of OYC**

- Brenda Daley and Derek England - Chairperson and Secretary, Ocean Estates Tenants Leaseholders Association
- Aminul Hoque –Tower Hamlets WorkPath
- Master Shujahat Fiaz and Instructor Junjian Zheng – Team DJB Taekwondo
- Bablu Miah – Head and Founder, Trapped In Zone One
- Junel Uddin – Vallance Community Sports Association
- Dr Elizabeth Venables – Trustee, Stepney City Farm
- Ishaque Uddin – TV and Radio Presenter
- Akik Miah – Secretary, Stepney Foundation

# **Ocean Youth Connexions**

## **Reporting period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

### **Staff team**

Mohammed Kamal Ahmed:	Project Coordinator
Rajmina Begum:	Holiday Youth Support Worker
Ruma Zaman:	Holiday Youth Support Worker
Syeda Farjana Ali:	Holiday Youth Support Worker
Mehmet Hasan	Youth Worker In-charge
Kadir Ali	Youth Support Worker/Outreach Worker
Yusuf Rahman	Youth Support Worker/Outreach Worker
Mozahid Hoque	Youth Support Worker/Outreach Worker
Hobibur Rahman	Youth Support Worker/Outreach Worker
Nicos Antonio Shuttler	Youth Support Worker/Outreach Worker
Zurain Hussean	Youth Support Worker
Kamrul Islam	Youth Support Worker
Meryem Day	Youth Support Worker
Fatima Begum	Youth Support Worker
Nelima Khatun	Youth Support Worker
Shujahat Fiaz	Taekwondo 5 <sup>th</sup> Dan Master
Jun Jian Zheng (Stephen)	Taekwondo 4 <sup>th</sup> Dan Master
Hamza Ahmed	Taekwondo 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan Instructor
Hegeun Chi	Taekwondo 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dan Instructor
Xhesiola Frroku	Taekwondo 1 <sup>st</sup> Dan Instructor
Numan Ahmed	Maths Tutor
Shabbir Kamali	Science Tutor
Zubair Ahmed	Volunteer

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

We currently have **269** registered members as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### **Programme and activities for 2020/21**

- Four weekly Youth Club Sessions at Ocean TLA
- Four weekly Youth Club session at Caxton Hall
- One study support sessions at Ocean TLA
- One Summer Holiday Activity Food programme at Ocean TLA
- One summer project at Caxton Hall
- Four Taekwondo sessions: Two at Mulberry, two at Tarling East Centre
- Two outreach & detached work sessions in Bow and Globe Town
- Ride along cycling project
- Two community fun days at both community centres
- Partnership youth project with The Rooted Forum

# **Ocean Estates Tenants Association (OETA)**

## **Youth Club Sessions**

After one month of delivery in October 2020 we went straight into two lockdowns and did not reopen until May 2021. When we did open we lost our usual 15-18 year old group and now had to deal with a much younger age group. Our young people have been so used to lockdowns that they no longer leave their rooms and have become accustomed to playing, connecting and socialising online from the comfort of their home. However, their younger siblings have been pushed outside and now they are the next generation of young people we will be working with. We had to lower our age range from 13 years to 10 years and then again in summer we took it down to 8 to attract a wider range of young people who normally are seen roaming the estates, parks and streets.



Jack Petchy Foundation funding allowed us to purchase a PS4 so that we could set up two stations for playing on the consoles. We organised a few workshops around health and nutrition, on child sexual exploitation as well as knife crime. We provided arts and craft classes, boxercise classes and football training activities.



We had on average of around 18-20 young people attending our youth provisions and 67 people were registered users during this period. Our Boxercise sessions have been very popular and our investment in boxing equipment has helped young people to be engaged in sparring, doing pad work and taking up skipping. This has also sparked a wave of young people going into sports at school and playing more football in the estate pitches. Our girls have gained a great interest in boxing and they also come and use the equipment frequently.

Through our outreach and detached work we got to see new young people that have recently moved into the area during the pandemic and they are now accessing our facilities and utilising our resources.

# October Half term and Summer project delivery

With funding from the BBC children in Need we organised a one-week October half term programme for 8–19-year-olds. The week consisted of exciting activities from arts and crafts, yoga, make up tutorials, mendhi art, clay modelling, to making friendship bracelets, doing hama bead designs and engaging in baking activities.



Unfortunately, due to the pandemic lockdowns we were not able to offer a February, Easter or a May half term programme like we have been doing in previous years.







With funding from LBTH Holiday Activity Food programme, Tower Hill Trust Stronger Futures (VRU) and the Julia Hans and Rausing Trust We delivered an exciting and fun filled summer programme for young people. During the holidays we offered hot lunches during the day for everyone that attended, held a weekly fruit and veg food bank at our centre and ensured that there was enough food for the evening session. We noticed that some young people were not getting fed well at home and that some were in receipt of food parcels and this raised concerns with staff. Parents were stating job losses, a reduction in the furlough to pay high rents and not having certainty of getting their jobs back, COID-19 infections and loss of family members has put a toll on the household. We held a community fun day with bouncy castles, BBQ food and a Splash event to conclude the programme.

We had seven members of staff that were working on the project in two parts, four in the morning from 11am-3pm and three in the afternoon session from 4pm to 8pm. The staff delivered a varied programme consisting of Arts and Crafts, indoor social games, competitions, cooking sessions, knitting and textile, outdoor games and trips. Both the projects attracted 67 young people to the project and it was a very successful delivery programme. On average we had around 35 young people attending each of our sessions especially with a high volume of younger girls that do not attend normal club sessions. This year the summer programme was needed especially after a four-month lockdown



# **Study Support Sessions**

## **Ocean Estates Tenants Association (OETA)**

We secured funding from the Young Londoners Award fund which enabled us to deliver a study support session. Within a month of attracting 22 students we went into the November lockdown, we did not take the opportunity to deliver online but we resumed in December until we went back into our third lockdown and in the New Year, 2021 we decided to deliver online classes.



Most of our young people had been really focused on the best results for their tests and mock exam results their attendance was regular on our study support sessions. This also meant that they excelled in their predicted grade and improved their levels. The 2021 exam results saw that many achieved their predicted grade and were so happy for the support we gave them.



This year there was no saga in the exam results, but now students do not get a grade but rather a grade number, something the labour industry will need to get used to when employing this new batch of students in the near future.

# Bow East Project (Caxton Hall)

Caxton Hall youth centre was funded by Action for Bow and the Young Londoners Award which helped keep the centre open after a three year delivery contract was cancelled at the start of the pandemic.

Again, with the pandemic we lost our core young people after the third lockdown. When we reopened in May 2021, we managed to attract a new batch of young people but again with the infection still amongst our midst people were hesitant to come inside the centre and mostly stayed outdoors on the green or kicked a ball in the attached football pitch. We lost two of our staff, one to the COVID-19 virus and another to maternity. Finding qualified replacement staff was becoming difficult as the youth industry is becoming a dying one and unless the government intervenes we will see the rise of crime, anti social behaviour and risky behaviour.



We delivered a six-week summer programme and a community fun day at the centre, all of our staff were involved in this to ensure we provided a wonderful experience in order to attract people back into the centre. Again, with the pandemic situation, people were hesitant in attending large gatherings but we managed to attract around 120 young people to the event throughout the day.

Malmesbury Resident Association funded a two-month outreach work grant to encourage positive engagement with young people and for them to refrain from negative and risky behaviour. This pandemic saw many young people not coming out especially during the summer period, many stayed indoors and avoided engaging in anti social behaviour but it was always the few that needed reminding and we were there to deal with the situation.

Many other youth centres, provisions and services were closed throughout the whole pandemic and many provided a digital service. We found this to have minimal or no impact on young people, so we were calling them up individually and catching up with them if they needed any help, assistance and whether their mental health was being impacted in any way.

Two of our staff worked closely with Key Workers in Tower Hamlets Social services, so that we could make referrals to these agencies to assist our young people during this pandemic. We dealt with a missing person case and found the young person through our contacts and now he has been reunited with his family.



This is our fourth year in delivering the Taekwondo classes with Team DJB and this year we have been fortunate in securing funding from Awards For All, Charles S French, London Sport and Jack Petchey.

We started our new Girls only sessions which grew to 20 in numbers before we went into a very long lockdown and centres not reopening till June 2021. However it seemed that the session had a great impact and parents when finding out about our project started to send their girls to the project.



Our Junior Dragon Taekwondo session for 5-10 years of age grew by parental demand and has now 34 registered with an average of 28 attending regularly. We did not secure funding for this session but parents were willing to pay for the cost of tutors and hall hire without hesitation.

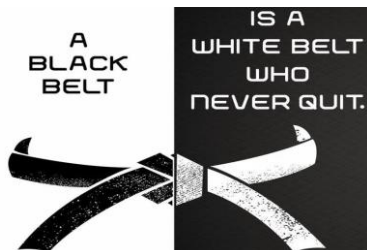




We have 28 young people registered for the teen sessions and on average 18 young people attend regularly we will split the class in two to cater for a new feeder programme with teens and seniors.



We have had only one grading session this year due to the lockdown and centre closures: Grading was achieved for two people on Yellow tag belts, 7 on Yellow belts, three on green tag and five on green belt, one black tag and two of our long standing pupils on 1<sup>st</sup> Dan black belt



The Taekwondo sessions had a great impact on those that attend, and you can see it in their behaviour and their attitude, showing humility and courtesy to each other during the session. We have seen good team work and support for each other and their willingness to learn and advance is improving.



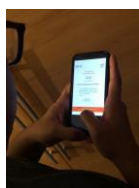
Taekwondo has helped these young people to work together as a team, improve their communication skills and significantly built their confidence levels. Young people are becoming more creative, active and learning fast the different patterns and styles being taught. The sessions have improved young people's ability to solve problems, improve their resilience, they are able to deal with conflicts and difficult situations and we have seen a vast improvement in their self motivation and an increase in the levels of self esteem they display.

## Outreach and Detached Intervention Work

A different type of outreach was being delivered as we went into the November Lockdown our staff went out onto the street, fully protected to meet up with young people that were flouting the lockdown rules and giving them advice, information, handing out masks and sanitising their hands.

We worked with the Tower Hamlets Park Guards and the Tower Hamlets Homes ASB Team to respond to young people hanging out in stairwells on the top floors of blocks and making noise, smoking drugs and causing inconvenience to residents in the blocks. We found young people sitting in cars at the end of roads that have been closed off as part of the new LTN's a perfect spot for ASB, and getting up to no good. All these activities were illegal under the lockdown rules and fines were being issued by police.

We saved a lot of young people from receiving fines and warning notices as we intervened and helped young people to understand that the COVID-19 pandemic virus is real and that cases of infection were really high and this was welcomed by the young people. Through keeping in touch with young people majority of young people obeyed and followed our instructions.



When we reopened our club sessions in April 2021 and we saw a spike in youth on youth violence, a rise in anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance late into the night. Young people came out in force and placed themselves back onto the streets a few got involved in a crime syndicate of stealing bikes whilst others turned to dealing drugs and joining moped gangs in stealing phones.

We received funding from Tower Hamlets Homes to work in their Bow estate areas. We found that working in the Bromley by Bow area difficult as all the boys of our target age groups were indoors on their consoles, on their phones or hogging the tablet from their younger siblings. As a result we saw so many under 13's out on the streets, playing football, talking to each other and engaging with us.

We managed to make contact with 60 young people, got 46 registered, in our youth centres, 36 young people accessed support services, 2 young people became volunteers and 31 were referred to other centres

# Jack Petchey

We are on the Bronze Scheme and we used the funding to purchase a PS4 console, PS4 games, colouring equipment, table tennis equipment and a boxing punch bag. We used the funds to upgrade our equipment and play facilities allowing more young people to attend our sessions and engage in discussions, debate and organised activities.



We spent last year's Leaders Award Grant funding on providing Taekwondo classes for our young people and they enjoyed it very much they learnt so much that they joined our main Taekwondo classes. This year we hope to nominate Syed Kadir Ali once the nomination opens up so that we can apply for funds that can support young peoples decisions to support their journey in our youth centres.





Although the country took up cycling and the demand for bikes was at it highest level ever in the UK, many suppliers could not cope with the demand. We saw three-month waiting lists as bikes were being made in China and shipped by air, ship and land.

We managed to do a scheme of work with Spotlight where young people got to make the bikes from scratch, learn how to maintain their bikes and then go out on bike rides locally for a couple of sessions. They got to keep the bikes afterwards.

During the summer 2021 we worked with the MET Police Outreach and Youth Engagement team in an intervention programme to develop a better relationship with the Police. We did many role reversal workshops, spoke about the Police cadets, entered a team for the kick@3 football tournament and delivered a bike programme.

The bike programme included in repatriating stolen recovered bikes that the Police confiscated but the owners did not claim. We did a two-day intensive workshop programme in learning how a bike works, how to repair a bike properly and how to look after a bike so that it looks after you. Young people got to go on our ride along sessions and visited many places of attraction around London and at the end of the project they got to keep the bikes.

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 will still continue to deliver Dr Bike Sessions at our Youth Centres on the Ocean Estates and Caxton Hall booking Zero Emission Network to provide us free bike maintenance workshops.





# Financial Information 2020 – 2021

## Ocean Youth Connexions Ltd Company limited by guarantee Detailed trading profit and loss account for the year ended 30 September 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Awards For All	10,000	10,000
Young Londoners Award – YLA	40,000	-
Tower Hill Trust – THT	4,770	-
Julian & Hans Rausing – J&HR	12,660	-
Jack Petchey	2,000	750
MOPAC	-	50,000
BBC Children in Need - BBC	5,000	10,000
Societylinks	-	1,845
Tower Hamlets Homes -THH	-	3,000
Ocean Regeneration Trust	10,000	-
Violence Reduction Unit - VRU	21,130	-
Charles S French	-	2,000
Action For Bow	9,166	5,310
Mark Mason benevolent Fund	-	3,680
LB Tower Hamlets – Summer	5,190	-
Malmesbury Residents Association - MRA	1,200	-
Street Games	1,260	-
Community Action Foundation – CAF	150	-
LB Tower Hamlets – Discretionary Grant	5,000	-
London Youth - LY	8,000	-
London City Airport	3,000	-
Arnold Clark Community Fund	1,000	-
East London Business Alliance - ELBA	1,011	-
Government Furlough Scheme	<u>22,287</u>	<u>18,899</u>
	<b>163,824</b>	<b>110,983</b>
<b>Administrative expenses</b>	<b><u>(121,737)</u></b>	<b><u>(91,289)</u></b>
<b>Operating surplus/(loss)</b>	<b><u>42,087</u></b>	<b><u>19,694</u></b>

## Acknowledgments

- Awards For All for providing funding for funding the outreach sessions during the lockdown
- Young Londoners Activity for funding two youth club sessions at both our centres, the taekwondo sessions and the study support sessions.
- Tower Hill Trust for supporting our afternoon summer programme
- Julia and Hans Rausing Trust for funding two youth club sessions at Caxton Hall
- Jack Petchey Foundation for funding trips, equipment social events and supporting young people's taekwondo project
- BBC Children in Need for funding two youth club sessions at Ocean TLA and the girls TKD sessions
- Leather sellers for giving us the chance to set up a cycling project
- Stronger Futures Project, (VRU) for funding the teens, senior and girls taekwondo project, youth club and supporting a partner organisation the Shadwell Trust to deliver two youth clubs and a martial arts club
- Action for Bow for funding two youth club provisions at Caxton Hall and the summer 2021 project
- London Borough of Tower Hamlets enabling us to provide a six week Holiday Activity Food programme
- Malmesbury Residents Association funding an outreach and detached project in the Bow West ward
- Streetgames for funding one tutor at the teen taekwondo project
- Tower Hamlets Homes for funding the Bow outreach work
- London Youth for funding the girls work and part funding the girls taekwondo project
- London City airport for providing us with the opportunity to increase our bike pool for cycling
- Arnold Clark Community Fund to support our Junior Taekwondo club
- Most importantly we would like to thank the residents, parents and young people of the Ocean Estates and Malmesbury Estate Community who have

supported us to ensure we deliver positive activities and have made the project a success throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Ocean Tenant Leaseholders Association and Malmesbury Community Projects for allowing us to use their venue to deliver all of our activities



# MAYOR OF LONDON



In partnership with

**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY  
COMMUNITY FUND**

