



DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL & BUSINESS STRATEGY
DATE RECEIVED
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Passed to
<i>Zach / Charlotte</i>

Somali Family Support Group

Harrow Branch (The Barwaqo Partnership)

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29th July 05

Ms M Barrett
Director of Finance and Business Strategy
The Edward Harvist Trust
Harrow Council Grants Unit, Business Connections
P.O. Box 57
Harrow, Middlesex
HA1 2AX

Dear Ms Barrett,

Application for £5000 funding from the Edward Harvist Trust

Somali Family Support Group (SFSG) is a voluntary, grassroots community organisation with headquarters in Finchley which responds to its community's health and social needs. It established a partnership with Barwaqo, a small Somali run business in Wealdstone and now offers services to 2 distinct client groups: women and young people. In September last year, it worked with other African organisations in Harrow to develop and deliver a successful programme for Black History Month 2004. This year I have been active in the preparations for Black History Month 2005 by chairing the funding sub-group and being a member of the Black History Month Steering Group.

The organisation is inclusive and currently reaches out to Afghans, Albanians, other Africans and any disadvantaged family especially those living in deprived areas who request a service. Areas of operation include Slough and London. In July last year, the Duke of Gloucester presented the organisation with the Queen's Award for voluntary service in recognition of the work being done to support families facing disadvantage.

Somali Family Support Group
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✉: info@sfsq.org
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Winners of Queens Award for
Voluntary Service 2004

Organisation Name	Somali Family Support Group
Project Name	Harrow Project Development
Beneficiaries	Shah iyo Sheeko Club – 20 African Women especially Somali and Swahili speaking Youth Akili – 25 Young People interested in sports and music Taaleen Debates – 40. Open to any member of the community concerned about the recent bombings and wanting to explore the 'cult' that leads to such wrong behaviour BHM PowerPoint Competition – 20 open to all young people in Harrow's schools or colleges.

At least 105 beneficiaries. 90% of Beneficiaries are Harrow residents

The Harrow Branch

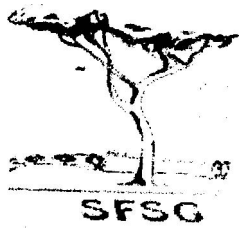
SFSG is seeking funds to further develop its work through the Wealdstone Office. The organisation will continue to work with partners in the voluntary, private and statutory sectors to deliver its vision of meeting community social and health needs.

Shah iyo Sheeko Club - a number of Somali women resident in Harrow have asked SFSG to facilitate the setting up of a Women's Social Club where they can meet, share their frustrations, solutions and where SFSG can invite statutory partners such as the Community Safety Team, Metropolitan Police, Ward Councillors, Harrow PCT and other community groups. The intention is to run fortnightly sessions at community venues. With funding from the Edward Harvist Trust, SFSG will facilitate 6 sessions with the help of volunteers from October 2005 – December 2005. The mid-term Evaluation and Report will help SFSG make the case for further funding.

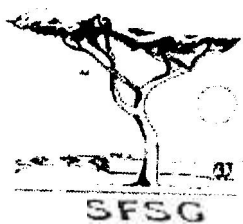
Youth Akili Club - young people who started the club several months ago, approached SFSG to ask for support for their club. Funding will finance their meetings and enable club members to develop a recording, a newsletter and a proposal for a sustainable club. Youth Akili currently meets weekly and struggles to meet the cost of venues etc. Support from the Edward Harvist Trust will enable SFSG to provide structure, tutors or activity animators and a coherent framework for development.

Taaleen Debates – this initiative involves debates and social interaction to encourage discussion and correct the misinformation which creates resentment. Since the 7th July bombings, communities are suspicious of each other. Worse still, a number of visible minorities have suffered attacks. Recent figures suggest a 600% increase in hate crime. The debates would be a means of addressing a serious threat to community cohesion through an innovative project. Encouraging communities to share food and discussion would break down barriers and enable socialisation which promotes understanding.

BHM PowerPoint Competition – Open to all young people in Harrow, the competition consists of researching one of the 3 African authors who won the Nobel Prize for Literature, and using PowerPoint to create a presentation which informs, demonstrates knowledge and shows how the author's life or work was a revolution responsible for changing worlds...changing minds. To enter, competitors need to send their presentation on DVD or CD ROM or Floppy disk or by email. Funding from the Edward Harvist Trust will help the organisation administer the competition, finance the Award Ceremony and publish the entries



SOMALI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP
ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004



THE SOMALI FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

Annual Report 2003/04

Introduction

The Overall Mission of Somali Family Support Group is to initiate, facilitate and implement activities aimed at improving the well-being of the average Somali/African family household in Greater London with the view of enhancing their integration into the wider society and empowering them to play a more positive role in their respective communities.

The Somali Family Support Group (SFSG) was born out of the need to provide a forum for Somali diaspora to share and overcome the cultural shock and new challenges that they face in their new country of bode. The value in our work is the wealth of personal experiences of everyone in our community i.e knowing what it is to be a refugee or an asylum seeker and learning how to adjust to new situations.

On top of the traumas of war and dislocation, the enormous task refugees and asylum seekers are often faced with, is settling in a foreign country in which they neither understand the language, way of life; nor have a clue of how several arms of government and its systems function. Our community is constantly formulating coping mechanisms and other appropriate measures to cushion the effects of prejudice and other barriers that may become a stumbling-block to proper integration of newcomers to mainstream life.

These first-hand experiences and understanding of what it takes to be an immigrant in the UK coupled with the hospitality accorded by host communities are valuable lessons that the Somali Family Support Group would like to share with other groups and mainstream communities.

Our Services

Our organisation is a community voluntary organisation set up to respond to health and social needs of our community focusing on disadvantaged groups particularly refugees and asylum seekers. We work with mainstream partners and other community organisations in delivery of required services to beneficiaries.

Services offered in our organisation include:

- Provision of family advice centre
- One-to-one advice support in areas of translation, interpretation and mentoring
- Cultural activities
- Traditional cooking
- Promotion of health awareness and healthy growth
- Skills development
- Exchange of ideas and information sharing.

Management Structure

Board of Trustees

Fadumo Xussen	Chairperson
Demam Gulleid	Member
Amina Mohamed	Member

Directors

Fahad Mohamed	Director
Thomas Bikebi	Secretary
Agnes Maganbo	Treasurer

Volunteer Co-ordinator

Hanan Ibrahim - who is also founder of the organisation

Volunteers

Ayan Shariff
Iman Bashe
Abdulkadir Araruw
Nour Sheikh
Faiza Mohamed
Martha Modi
Abubakar Abaker
Nasra Abu Baker

Coordinator's Report

*"Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is a process;
working together is success"
(Henry Ford)*

It gives me great pleasure to present this review report for 2003/04 which outlines our programmes and accomplishments since the organisation was set up in May 2001 on my kitchen table. This community organisation was not heard of two and half years ago but since then has grown to its present level. We were/are extremely busy implementing various programmes with great commitment; and were able to meet most of our target goals within the review period.

Although these efforts were outbalanced by soaring needs, we nonetheless forged ahead in spite of these challenges. This was achieved through careful planning and budgeting focusing on priorities with the needs of asylum seekers, refugees and women topping the list.

We would have not achieved much without the great support received from our partners and well-wishers at both official and voluntary levels. This huge support enabled us to meet some of our goals in spite of resource limitations.

We also managed to forge links with a number of community organisations in the short period of our existence which increased the scope of our operations. This network activity enhanced our service delivery greatly.

Programmes implemented during the period under review include:-

Training and skills development

- To assist Somali refugees and asylum seekers in meeting their needs particularly access to services, skills development and employment opportunities



Ms Hanan Ibrahim
SFSG Volunteer Coordinator

- To seek funding support to assist, encourage and train disadvantaged groups including adults who intend to further their education, especially women.

Community Development

- To run projects in health promotion; creation of awareness on HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmittable diseases; reproduction health; anti-drug abuse especially chewing of *Chat, Qat, Miraa*, etc.
- Undertaking advocacy and awareness campaigns; parenting & childcare; mental health advice; education and training for women, elders and youth
- To provide forum for workshops/seminars for self-help groups and social enterprises for promotion of income-generation activities

Networking & Partnership

- Endeavour to develop mutually beneficial relations with mainstream voluntary and statutory agencies
- Networking with voluntary organisations, local and national authorities
- Promote partnership with the Local Council, the Metropolitan Police and other stakeholders

Despite demands and constraints on SFSG to undertake these enormous tasks and other additional programmes - the organisation looks forward to meeting the challenges of the coming years with zeal, enthusiasm and fresh approach.

Programme Activities

Our goal is to support the community through promotion of:

- Good health and healthy growth
- Cultural development and community participation; and
- Skills development

We learned and worked closely with established agencies to accomplish these objectives. Our women benefited, for example, from a 'Fast Forward Grant' for improvement of their English language skills to help them find employment in the job market. We also conduct an Outreach I.T program funded by the Home Office Refugee Community Development Fund. Several members in the governance board and volunteers attended a variety of training courses covering: fight against drugs/alcohol abuse, PQASSO quality assurance course, counselling, NVQ courses, insurance, fundraising, finance and role of a volunteer in an organisation.



Racial Harassment and Abuse Open Forum: Trudi Sills, Community Safety Coordinator ; Helen Kelavey, CAB Manager; Grant Morrison, LBB Youth Services Alison, Rainbow Centre Youth Service



Children's party in Slough



Racial Harassment and Abuse Open Forum - representatives from Victim Support, Equality Team, Barnet Council Housing Department Chair, Inspector Scort of Metropolitan Police



Displaying 'Chat Qat' at a social event

Health Promotion

We carried out activities covering:

- ♦ Promotion of healthy living through encouragement of better eating habits and proper calorie intake

Awareness raising community discussion groups, workshops and individual advice sessions on prevention of HIV/AIDs and other sexually transmitted diseases

Assistance of young people against alcohol and drug abuse

- ♦ Provision of emotional and care support to the mentally sick

Networking Events

We work closely with our partners in delivery of services to beneficiaries of our programmes; and have in this respect mutual relations with

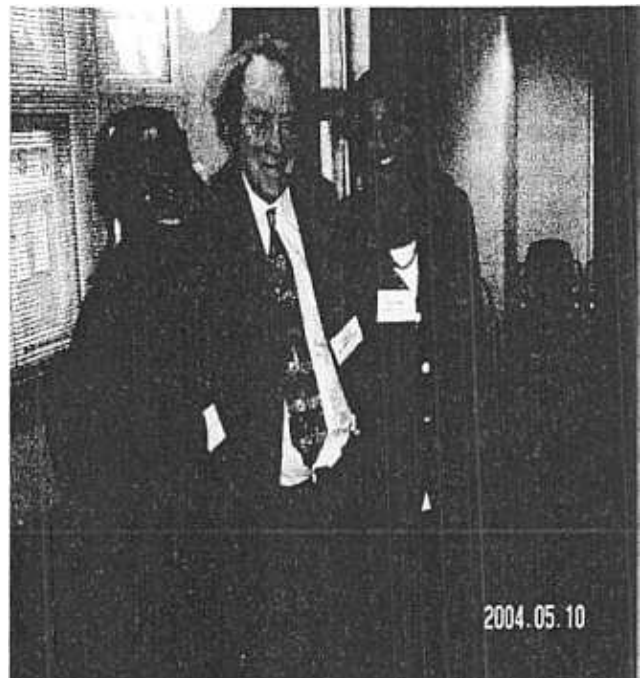
- Mainstream statutory organisations
- The Local Authority and Metropolitan Police
- Community organisations and grassroots groups.



With Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London in a public event



Mr Stephen Twigg, MP - Parliament Under Secretary of State for Schools - at reception for the London Challenge.



Professor Tim Brighouse, *Commissioner for London Schools* — at reception for the London Challenge with Nana Asante (NLVF)



Mr D. Brown, Manager Housing Department discussing with participants at the Racial Harassment and Abuse Open Forum - July 9, 2003



With Jennette Arnold, Assembly Member and President of the London Black Women Council - in City Hall at the launch of The African Women's Council

Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders, partners and well-wishers for their sincere and unwavering support accorded to us in the last two years. Without their assistance, continued support and encouragement it would have been very difficult for us to have achieved much of our set objectives over this period.

We would like in particular, to extend our gratitude to the following agencies and institutions, and in the same token to many other partners and individuals, who for economy of space, we could not individually mention in this report:-

- The African Families Foundation
- Avenue House, Estate Management
- Equalities Team - London Borough of Barnet
- The Housing Dept. in LBB & LBB Youth services
- Slough Borough Council Asylum Seekers Team
- Barnet Voluntary Service Council (BVSC)
- Slough Voluntary Service Council (SVSC)
- Metropolitan Police
- Sudanese Women Self-Help Society
- Barnet Homes

Special thanks and appreciation go to our funders:

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| * Slough Social Fund | * Fast Forward Grant |
| * Milly Apthorp Trust | * Global Grant (ESF) |
| * Awards for All | * Slough PCT |
| * Barnet Children Fund | * LBB (Barnet Homes) |
| * Barnet Youth Service | * Rainbow Centre |
| * Home Office Refugee Development Fund | |
| * The Centre for Public Innovation (Community against Drugs) | |

The last two years were not only exciting and challenging for Somali Family Support Group (SFSG) but also a very productive period especially the last quarter of 2003. A major triumph is our move from a residential address (where the organisation operated for a long time) to a new office in Avenue House, a beautiful historical building at East End Road, Finchley. We are proud to be housed in such a warm, nice and cosy office although most of our work is outreach due to limited space.

I'd also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Manager of Avenue House, Janet Durrant and the entire staff and management of Avenue House for their great support.

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Bankers

Lloyds TSB
Cockfoster's Branch
113-115 Cockfoster's Road
Herts EN4 0DA

Full audited accounts available at request.



Eid Festival - Children
Socialisation Party



Youth trip - 2003



Mother and Child at the Eid Festival