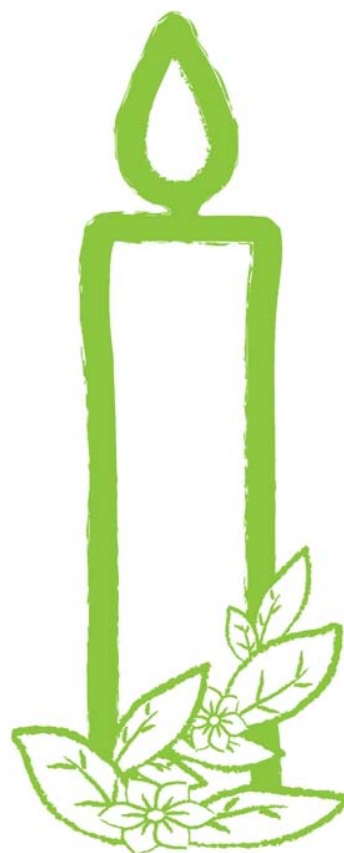




BELIEVE IN CHILDREN

CANDL

**Church and Neighbourhood
Development in London**



Annual Report 2006-07

Barnardo's Vision

Is that the lives of all children and young people should be free from poverty, abuse and discrimination.

Our Purpose

Is to help the most vulnerable children and young people transform their lives and fulfil their potential

During 2006-07 Barnardo's operated 85 services in the London, East and South East England Region providing support to children of all ages within their families and communities.

More information can be obtained from the Regional Office on 020 8551 0011.

Overview

The CANDL team believes in children. The Project aims to help the most vulnerable children, young people and families in London to transform their lives and fulfil their potential, through the facilitation of appropriate church-originated community development work. CANDL provides support to churches and church-related organisations developing community initiatives which benefit children, young people and families in east and south London. We offer information, advice, consultancy, mentoring, and training to groups, their leaders, staff and members. Through our Family Life/Parenting Support Initiative we also offer churches the opportunity to host parenting support programmes, within which some parents are trained to become facilitators of further programmes. Our BME Churches Support Initiative includes work developing youth participation work including a peer mentoring programme. Through our Faith & Community Development Support Initiative we are helping local church leaders identify issues of common concern and engage with statutory authorities and local partnerships to address these concerns. The Project celebrated its coming of age in 2006, reaching 18 years since being established.

In 2006-7 we worked with a total of 21 groups, on initiatives including development of a breakfast club, a children's contact centre, a family centre, multi-purpose community centres, mentoring schemes, youth clubs, young people's drama and music, under fives centre, inter-faith networks, parenting support, extended schools provision, counselling work, teenage pregnancy, homeless people, lone-parent families, and community development training. An estimated 1050 children and young people and 900 adults benefited from our work with these initiatives. We ran 6 parenting programmes hosted by 3 churches - some 47 parents completed the programmes. 16 young people were engaged directly in creative arts programmes.

Much of our work crosses the boundaries between the 'outcome' headings used in this report, which makes it difficult to represent properly. Again, a

substantial part of our work is consultancy and support to churches planning initiatives/development or "hosting space" for others' activities, and network development which contributes to community cohesion. These are inherently difficult to contain within an outcome-focused model. During 2006 Barnardo's Policy & Research Unit published an evaluation of CANDL which gave a glowing account reflecting users' experience of our work alongside them. The PRU also helped us develop ways of measuring the outcomes of both our community development work and the direct work with children, young people and families. A full account of these outcomes, and targets for 2007-8 is appended to this report.

The year also saw: the completion and commencement of piloting of our Quality Tool for our service user groups; 4 issues of *CANDL Light* newsletter (aided by young volunteers) delivered to 400+ churches; 3 issues of *PACEsetter* parenting supplement and 2 issues of *SOLID news* youth supplement produced by young people and in partnership with a service user group; completion and circulation of our new and comprehensive 'Who we are and what we do' brochure; the success of several user groups' Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund bids; 4 workshops for parenting facilitators; continuation of the NVQ4 in Community Development for 2 Barnardo's staff and the Assessor award for another; a "coming of age" 18th Birthday Party event bringing together 60 children, young people and adults from our service user groups along with partners and network colleagues; input to the Government's "Change-Up" initiative through the Link-Up Hackney network; involvement in developing reflective practice spaces for local community development practitioners, for people involved in offering mentoring or non-managerial support to church leaders/staff, and for voluntary Sector L&D leaders interested in Learning Organisation practice.

A very busy and productive year!

Simon Vincent
CANDL Service Manager





Children have a right to *a positive family life*

What we did

In our last Annual Report we reported on the new Big Lottery Fund funded PACE (Parent and Community Education) initiative, and this has continued to expand successfully over the last year. We have run 6 *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities* (SFSC) Parenting Programmes in 3 different venues, offering both daytime and evening sessions, and through these Programmes we have supported 47 parents and over 100 children. At the start of one Programme we discovered that between us we had 53 children and grandchildren ranging in age from 35 years to 6 weeks – an enormous amount of experience and expertise which we were able to share.

Our programme designed to train parent facilitators also continued to expand. 4 parents gained accreditation as SFSC Facilitators, by undertaking 5 days training with the Race Equality Foundation (REF) and then co-facilitating a Programme. We were also able to help two voluntary sector workers who had done the training, but had been unable to find a Programme to co-facilitate, by enabling them to be part of our team temporarily. We hope that this area of the work will expand further; the REF offers 2 free places per training course for parents, and it is becoming more difficult to access these as the Programme becomes more and more popular. Each training place now costs £1,000; well worth it, but not always easy to find!

PACE has continued to offer training, support and supervision to both accredited and up and coming parent facilitators; work with individuals looking at preparation and evaluation of sessions, and workshops for all facilitators covering such things as Health and Safety, Keeping Children Safe, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, and How to work with Groups.

We have also continued to offer advice, mentoring, and consultancy to initiatives that work in the family life/parenting field, and are becoming more and more well-known as an organisation that is prepared to share its experiences of the SFSC Programme with those for whom the experience is new. On several occasions throughout the year we have had visitors to our sessions, with parents keen to talk about the difference the Programme has made to them, and facilitators happy to share their expertise.

An example of the mentoring and consultancy service is the work we have done alongside the Association of Tamil Parishioners (ATP) in Lewisham, an organisation which has grown enormously over the past 2 years. Its aim is to help young Tamils aged between 16 and 25 become more active within their community; there is no tradition of volunteering amongst Tamils in Britain, and the ATP's founder, Mathew Manoharan felt strongly that young people should be encouraged to contribute their not inconsiderable skills. The PACE coordinator has provided regular one-to-one sounding board sessions and carried out a formal evaluation to meet funders requirements.

We have produced 3 editions of our Parenting newsletter *PACEsetter*, which is distributed to all those on the *CANDLLight* mailing list, and to all the parents and carers who have attended the Programme. *PACEsetter* aims to keep parents and carers informed about issues that might affect them, such as new legislation, changes in benefits, and useful resources. It also keeps them up to date with the parenting and family life work we are doing at CANDL. We try to keep it reasonably light-hearted and user-friendly; so far the feedback has been very positive!

What difference did we make?

Forty-seven adults have completed the programme, and approximately 100 children and young people have benefited. It is difficult to give definite figures, as 2 programmes were attended by nursery nurses workers who wanted to use the strategies they learned in their work. See Appendix 1 Section C for detailed outcomes from our PACE work.

It is often difficult to know exactly the difference we have made, particularly in numerical terms. Parents share their experiences and newly-acquired knowledge with their friends and neighbours, children behave differently at school, and others copy. But what we do know is that people **are** changed by the work that we do.

A mother who described her daughter as “the daughter from hell” at the beginning of her Programme was enabled to understand her daughter’s behaviour better, control her own anger, and begin to build a better relationship with her daughter. This affected the whole family – there were fewer rows, her son began to talk to her more openly, and she was able to have a better relationship with her ex-partner, the children’s father.

A parent disclosed that she had been abused as a child, something she had never told anyone before, and we were able to find the expert help that she needed. Another parent voiced her concerns that her teenage daughter was self-harming, and again we were able to help.

A teenage father had his access to his son increased as a direct result of his participation in the programme; at his Award Ceremony his mother told us how the workers at the Contact Centre he attended for his access visits had been amazed at the change in him. His confidence and self-esteem have continued to improve weekly. He is about to start attending our first anger management course.

One of the major differences that we see as a result of the parenting work is the changing attitude of parents and carers to physical punishment. Most

parents have themselves been physically punished as children, and many know no other way to change their children’s behaviour. It is always interesting to see how passionately they defend their right to smack at the beginning of the Programme, and how, by the end of the Programme, having been given many other strategies that actually work, very few still feel the need to use physical punishment.

As parents begin to realise that their family lives can be more ordered and secure, then the change of which these families are part will extend out to the communities in which they live. Those communities will in turn, change. We may not be able to accurately count the differences numerically, but we know, just by talking to people, that lives have been changed, are still being changed, and we hope, will continue to be changed in the future.

“I’m very proud of myself”

“I used to think ‘what a load of...’ when I heard about parenting groups, but if I’d come here before, things might have been different. I’ve made my mistakes, but now I know I can help my grandchildren.”

(Participants in 2007)

As a result of the ATP’s work, with the help of CANDL, 19 young Tamil men and women were successfully trained as mentors, ready to go out into their community to work with younger children. Regular meetings of the young people have been held, and issues facing the Tamil communities in Britain have been discussed; for many this has been the first time they have had the opportunity to do this. These young people now feel empowered in a way they have not felt before; it is hoped that the work will expand to other Tamil communities in London and beyond, and young Tamils will make a difference.



Margaret Collins
PACE Coordinator

Children have a right to *make a positive contribution*

What we did

CANDL's work is intended to enable communities to develop in an open and inclusive way so that children and young people can belong and contribute. Towards this end we work with churches and their organisations to improve their knowledge, skills and practice in Community Development, and to help them become more involved in partnerships and community networks.

CANDL provides information, advice, consultancy and training to churches and their organisations, focusing on Community Development principles and methodology, and helps groups carry out Community Profiles and evaluations. We use *CANDL Light* articles and information, and accompanying Discussion papers, to raise the issues involved. We also develop Resource packs, make resources available through our website, and run or contribute to occasional conferences, workshops and seminars.

One specific example of this broad developmental work, with St. John of Jerusalem Church in Hackney, is included in this report under the 'Children have a right to enjoy and achieve' section.

Another aspect of our work under this heading involves work alongside Alpha Apostolic Church's community youth project, *Solid As A Rock*. This is direct work with young people to encourage their engagement in more volunteering activities, and to help them become more confident in their rights and abilities to express their needs and views.

As a project, which mainly works with the Black community, SAAR recognises the external obstacles and negative forces and views which the young Black community so often encounter. The SAAR project aims to work in a way which raises self esteem, and

encourages young people to develop life skill and strategies, and an ability to overcome disadvantages which they may face.

A crucial element of this programme is to encourage creative expression; this helps the young person to release frustration and stress, build relationships with peers and adults, and develop the ability to confidently communicate their needs.

SAAR has met on a Friday in south London, working with 16 young people aged between 8 and 18, offering them a safe environment to meet and share information and ideas. Five volunteers have helped lead workshops such as computers, craft, dance and drama. The young people enjoy being part of the group and often refer to it as "Friday Club". Parents are keen to support the work SAAR does as they recognise the importance of giving the young people a focus on a Fridays and keeping them away from becoming involved in street crime. Three of the group made the trek up to CANDL's 18th Birthday event in Hackney and presented for us a dance/drama expressing the experience in London of young people of Jamaican heritage.



SAAR at CANDL's birthday bash

The SAAR programme uses a “have a go” approach which encourages the young person to participate in all four workshops even if they believe they are not good at it. This method is used to help to identifying areas of interest and hidden talents, which the adult volunteers can then use to engage and support the young person.

Over the past year the Project Worker has consulted the volunteers and young people from SAAR to further develop the arts programme which is now known as the CLASP programme, (Creative Learning Arts Support Programme). She is in the process of documenting the learning and experiences gained.

The young people also expressed a desire to share their experiences and views by producing a youth newsletter which would be distributed to the 400 plus churches on CANDL’s database. So far they have produced two editions, called *Solid News*. As well as helping on the design the young people contributed by writing articles on issues which they believed were relevant to young people. In one article a young person discussed their involvement in a world-wide HIV awareness event which took place in Piccadilly. The young person was able to use their creative skills, coupled with the confidence gained by attending the SAAR project, to dance in unison with people all over the world to fundraise and raise awareness of HIV.

“It was a spectacular event and I was proud to be a part of it and would love to do it again”

Danny C

What difference did we make?

“I have noticed E having more confidence particularly in applying for training opportunities such as Total Respect with Barnardo’s. He is able to use his experiences gained at SAAR such as attending the Labour Party conference and the mentoring training and articulates this on his application forms. I believe E has gained a positive approach and a head start in filling in application forms and engaging more widely in the community.”

SAAR Parent-Volunteer

In the December issue of *Solid News* the young people highlighted issues around stereotype with the German sportswear Puma launching a new trainer named Bonnie and Clyde after the 1967 movie. The young people questioned whether Puma was marketing the stereotype of all black youth being part of the gang culture with no life aspirations. They believed multinationals found it far too easy to exploit the stereotypical attitude of black teenagers being thuggish and dangerous than to invest in projects working relentlessly on the self worth and positive images of young black people.

The CLASP programme also encourages young people to make a contribution to the wider society. Three young people from SAAR have engaged in volunteering in organisation such schools, family centres and working with the elderly this year. One young person has used the mentoring training received at SAAR and has applied to attend the RESPECT training at Barnardos which is aimed at helping young people to have a voice. He has also applied to sit on the NCB youth board which will be made up of 25 children from all over England. The main aim will be to advise the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) on issues that affect children and young people in England. If he gets through, his task will be to consult with children and feed back to the Minister for children, young people and families and the DfES stakeholder board on a wide range of themes. This will be an opportunity for him to use the skills and experience he has gained by attending SAAR.

See also Appendix 1, B



*Sonia Chambers
BME Churches Support
Initiative Leader*



Children have a right to *stay safe*

What we did

CANDL works alongside churches and their organisations to enable them to provide safer spaces where children and young people can play, learn and socialise. This includes a specific emphasis on helping churches gain confidence in dealing with safeguarding children issues, and develop clearer policies and more active procedures for safeguarding children.

To this end, in 2006-7 we provided information, advice, consultancy and training to 21 churches and their organisations, on initiatives including development of a breakfast club, a children's contact centre, a family centre, multi-purpose community centres, mentoring schemes, youth clubs, young people's drama and music, under fives centre, inter-faith networks, parenting support, extended schools provision, counselling work, teenage pregnancy, homeless people, lone-parent families, and community development training. Detailed outcome indicators are provided in the appendix.

At appropriate points in the process of working with our service users, we encourage committee members and volunteers to identify the needs of local children and young people, and develop an understanding of how to prevent children from experiencing harm. We provide groups with information on child protection issues and resources as well as deliver occasional training ourselves.

All four 2006-7 issues of *CANDL Light* newsletter have carried information about CCPAS 'Facing the Unthinkable' child protection seminars for church

leaders, staff and volunteers. We've also included items re Child Safety Week, children detained in immigration centres, children's resilience in disadvantaged communities, school exclusion, children and ME, core skills for children's workers, safeguarding children from abuse linked to beliefs in spirit possession, CRB checks for Trustees, Every Child Matters and churches, faith schools, parents and anger management, and more.

We delivered specific 'keeping children safe' training to 6 parenting facilitators working with our PACE programmes. The workshop had a practical emphasis rather than overloading participants with facts and figures - with exercises, for example encouraging participants to think afresh about safety in the crèche. We looked at parental expectations, and the difficulties this can pose for a host church with only the bare minimum of equipment needed for a crèche, and what can be done to supplement this. Participants were also encouraged to think about engaging and managing qualified crèche workers, carrying out correct CRB checks, as well as ensuring the proper paper work was in place – i.e. parents signed consent forms and that children were signed in and out of the crèche. The training also included information on the definitions of child abuse and the different forms and indicators of potential abuse. 'Keeping children safe' can seem a very daunting aspect of facilitation to many new facilitators.

What difference did we make?

With help from Barnardo's PRU we have developed ways of measuring the difference we make in terms of keeping children safe, and piloted these during 2006-7. We are aware that our monitoring against these indicators started late (August) and has not been consistent due to getting to grips with the recording system, so we're likely to be under-reporting for the current year, and we need to be more systematic for 2007-8. To this end we've set targets. See Appendix 1 for full details.

8 churches specifically expressed feelings of being more effective and confident in hosting and/or running activities for children, young people or families. 4 stated that they had increased or improved their provision of play or learning opportunities. 3 expressed more confidence in dealing with safeguarding issues and 2 reported that their provision was safer.

On our PACE programmes, 20 parents reported a change in their attitude towards physical punishment of their children, and 5 facilitators reported being more confident in dealing with child protection issues that might arise. 29 parents reported a greater

confidence in dealing with the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

Sometimes the outcome of our work is to prevent unsafe initiatives developing. The PRU May 2006 evaluation of CANDL's work quotes one church leader:

"On two occasions we were approached by people wanting the halls for child care and because no one within our church have expertise in this area and would not know the quality of what was being offered. [CANDL project worker] went with us when we interviewed these people and with her expertise we felt more secure as she knew what questions to ask and in both cases she advised us not to proceed with it, which turned out in particularly one case to be very good advice as it was a scam to try and get money out of the local authority and run away with it. What she picked up on was their lack of knowledge and skills and that they did not really know what they were doing. The other group were not trying to scam anyone but did not have the knowledge and skills required to carry out groups for children so in both cases it was valuable negative help."



PACE Awards – Kings Centre Family Project February 2007



Children have a right to *social & economic wellbeing*

No specific work to report in this area.



Children have a right to *enjoy & achieve*

What we did

CANDL works with churches and their organisations to develop play and learning opportunities for children, young people and families. We provide information, advice, consultancy and training to churches and their organisations, and mentoring/non-managerial supervision to leaders of church community work initiatives, in order to help churches and their organisations be more effective and feel more confident in hosting and running activities for children, young people and families. Where appropriate we help churches carry out community profiling/needs analyses, and develop their resource/funding strategies.

CANDL has begun work with St John of Jerusalem church in South Hackney this year. This is an Anglican parish well-established in its community which wants to become further involved in its diverse parish, but it is restricted by the fact that it has no church halls and has to rely only on the church building itself. It has begun to open it up to the community with the small, inadequate rooms it has been used by Alcoholics Anonymous and a music group for children. But it recognised that it needed to undertake some redevelopment in order to produce some more usable space. At this point it decided to involve CANDL.

They already had an architect on-board who had drawn up some plans but we realised they had no documentation of the needs in the area

so we agreed to work with them to produce a community profile. This enabled the church to document what they already knew and also to discover some new things about their area. South Hackney is generally regarded as one of the wealthier areas of Hackney, close to Victoria Park it is showing signs of gentrification and has some very pleasant residential properties. Nonetheless the community profile revealed that although this was part of the picture the parish also contained some very deprived areas and that the true picture of the community was one of a patchwork of poverty and wealth living side by side.

CANDL project will continue its light touch involvement with St. John of Jerusalem particularly through facilitating a community forum which will hope to tap into the neighbourhood interest in the building and its potential as a community space.

St John of Jerusalem shows every sign of becoming another of those long-term pieces of work in which CANDL specialises - enabling churches to develop the resources and networks they need in order to establish much needed provision of play and learning opportunities for London's children.

What difference did we make?

St. John of Jerusalem has only begun its journey to redevelopment and greater community engagement but there are some exciting plans and possibilities already emerging from the community profile. There is the possibility of developing a nursery on the site – the community profile revealed that it is the worst served area in Hackney for nursery provision.

Particularly interesting is the possibility of working together with the church school in the parish which is desperately in need of more room. This would provide a reliable user for the redeveloped rooms as well as providing the kitchen and lavatory facilities that the church needs in order to become a properly accessible community building.

The church's increasing community network is also beginning to show fruit for young people in the area as a neighbouring youth project is soon to start using the church on a regular basis.

More generally the PRU May 2006 evaluation reports other client groups' comments about the difference we have made to their initiatives:

"It is this quiet presence they have and [their] local knowledge we have used CANDL for – they seem to know about employing people and technical things – all the gaps we have and the [CANDL project worker] became the line-manager to our support worker and he was also extremely helpful in getting us her ."

"CANDL has taken time to know our heart, and to get to know us. We have been made to look at the work ourselves, and not just had it done for us and it has been very positive. I have never worked with a company like this before."

"I think it has been good and we would have been quite lost without them. They are good and although I am sure we would have found support elsewhere I doubt we would have got quite as much support – I guess what I am saying is that we would not necessarily have got no support from other organisations, but the support we got from CANDL has been outstanding."

The CANDL project workers "are unique – not all organisations are available and ready to help you but CANDL is different – they give you advice and they are always there. If you give them a ring you will always be attended to and you can arrange one-to-one meetings and they will always come. I like to work with CANDL more than any other organisation – even the local ones. Genuine interest and genuine help. On top of that every time I contact them they get back to me quickly – even if they are not there they will get back to me. They are very friendly and have great ideas."

As 2006 ended one of our user group leaders sent us a Christmas greeting with a note, pre-figuring the new Barnardo's strapline:

"Thank you for everything...
for your partnership in the past,
present and the future...
Thank you for believing in us."

*James Ashdown
CANDL Faith & Community
Renewal Initiative Leader*





Children have a right to *be healthy*

What we did

Good Start Breakfast Club, one of the social outreach projects of Victoria Park Baptist Church in Tower Hamlets, aims to provide good quality child care with a healthy eating option. This enables children to start the school day properly fed and in a positive emotional and mental state. The project is now entering its 5th year.

CANDL has been involved from the beginning when planning and funding bids were in their infancy. CANDL has continued to provide a wide range of help, advice and support over the last year.

A Project Worker attends the Management Group regularly and while providing a 'critical friend' approach, also gives advice and information when required, and offers a listening ear and support on a one-to-one basis to the Chair of the Management group.

The breakfast club was closed from July 2006 to January 2007 because of work to the venue and the fundraising process being undertaken. However, it reopened with three new workers to run the breakfast club mid-January and appointed a Projects Development Manager (PDM) in February 2007.

One of the more recent developments for CANDL's role has been our Project Worker acting as consultant/mentor to the new PDM.

She values the opportunity to meet with the CANDL worker and discuss issues, raise questions and use problem solving skills to dissect and analyse issues as they present. The numbers of children using the breakfast club quickly rose to 20 who used the club regularly. GSBC are also planning a full-day summer playscheme for the first time in 2007. The Project Worker has given support to the PDM in helping her think through issues related to this, including the practicalities of working with volunteers as well as relationships within the staff team. They have also worked on the existing volunteer agreement.

A second CANDL project worker continues to give mentoring and support to other GSBC staff in the form of non-managerial supervision.

We have participated in the probationary review of the new breakfast club Leader, giving practical help and advice before the review in terms of advising on the structure and process, as well as being part of the reviewing panel itself.

What difference did we make?

It has been good to see that the Breakfast Club has built up its numbers so quickly after being closed for the best part of six months. We have been pleased to see and hear about the children's progress, both in terms of their improved social skills as well as their academic progress in school. With the children being new to one another it has been very helpful that one of the new staff members has been specifically employed as a Play Worker. He engages with the children on a one-to-one and a group basis and encourages the children to give their comments and suggestions on what they want to see included in their club. The workers are already getting parents asking about the forthcoming summer playscheme, something which has not happened before. They are planning to run it between 8am-6pm and have actively started recruiting volunteers. It is rewarding to see the impact that the Breakfast Club is having on both the educational, physical and emotional well-being of the children that continue to use its services.

GSBC is now entering its 5th year and the challenges ahead continue to stretch the Management Group, even though they now have a Projects Development Manager in place. The same thinking about sustainability and funding remains necessary, if not more so, in

the coming year, and they have expressed their desire that CANDL continues to work alongside them in their new venture to continue asking the difficult questions whilst encouraging them along the way.

“I am writing as chair of the Projects Development Manager Management Group which met last night. We wish to express our thanks and appreciation for your mentoring support for [the PDM]. We have heard from [the PDM] the great benefit that is being derived from the links with yourself at CANDL. The degree and scope of the support currently being provided has exceeded our expectations in our suggesting and your agreeing to this role for CANDL as part of the support network for [the PDM] as a lone worker in a challenging role on a small amount of hours per week. As a project and a process we feel we have made significant progress over the last few months and would see your role as making a significant contribution to that“.

*Chair, Projects Development Manager
Management Group*

*Gill Kanga
Family Life/Parenting Support
Initiative Leader*





Influencing

In a real sense all CANDL's work is about influencing others' policy and practice, as much of our work does not involve working directly with children and young people, instead providing support and guidance to others developing work which benefits them. We have developed a statement regarding what we term our 'strategic and prophetic' role, and identify the learning from our work generally, and the 3 Initiatives specifically, which we think needs to be addressed more widely.

We have developed and begun to pilot our own Quality Mark tailored for working with community initiatives at an early stage of development. It covers areas of good practice including aims and vision, management committee abilities, keeping children safe, recruiting and managing staff, managing fundraising and finances, and providing services. 2 church initiatives are piloting this and we expect at least 2 more to enter the process in the coming year.

Our quarterly newsletter, *CANDL Light*, has contained information and discussion on a range of policy and practice issues, from keeping children safe to parenting skills, fundraising opportunities to the abolition of the slave trade bicentenary, and from anti-poverty work to the new Charities Act legislation. By March 2006 it was circulated to some 400+ church-based contacts in east and south London. Since March 2006 we have added a supplement, *PACEsetter*, dedicated to parenting education, and in summer 2006 the first of a biannual youth supplement, *SOLID News*, was produced by young people from *Solid As A Rock* under the auspices of our partnership with Visionadda, a local BME church initiative. The quarterly

mailout is used by a variety of organisations to disseminate their own flyers and news covering matters from job adverts to faith-based regeneration, from furniture recycling schemes to a faith and homophobia conference. We have also circulated 'discussion papers' on the Church of England's 'Faithful Cities' report, the Outcomes approach, and the concept of Empowerment. Our website offers free downloadable good practice resources - material which we have developed can be widely accessed without us even knowing. It received over 2900 hits in 2006-7.

The Project also has an e-mail group of most of its Members, to which is regularly copied a list of our incoming resources available for them to access at CANDL, and a variety of funding, training and other opportunities which we pass on from third parties. The impact of this level of influencing should not be under-estimated.

We have also been involved in a wide range of networks and forums (some 66 at last count), at a variety of levels, from a gathering of local faith groups now instigating research into local faith-based schools to Hackney's 'Change Up' network and the London Churches Poverty Network.

During the past year CANDL staff have worked with *Faith in the Future* and *Interlink Foundation* to develop the faiths forum for Hackney and pursue the needs of faith community schools. We played a key role in sustaining a Tower Hamlets college sponsored Reflective Practice group for local community workers, and an Action Learning Set on Learning Organisations for London-based Voluntary Sector L&D leaders.

Participation

CANDL involves all user groups directly in setting mutually agreed learning objectives for our work with them, through an Initial Assessment meeting, followed by Reviews at approximately 9-15 monthly intervals. At all Assessment and Review meetings one of the issues we raise with user groups is the extent to which they involve their service users in the planning and management of their initiative. Where appropriate, enabling service user participation is identified as a learning objective.

We have introduced a slimmer, more focused review process for clients receiving mentoring/non-managerial supervision, and are currently tailoring aspects of the reviews to better assist with monitoring outcomes.

Where we have engaged in direct “service delivery” with partner/host churches, in running the *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities* courses (see pages 6-7) and in the work with Solid as a Rock (see pages 8-9) the parents and young people, respectively, have been closely involved in planning and running activities. The work includes training and supporting selected service users so that they become co-facilitators on further courses.

Two young people from service user groups have also been involved in the major re-vamp of *CANDL Light* during the year, contributing their flair, imagination and IT skills to the design and content of the newsletter, and 5 young people were involved in the production of the youth supplement, *SOLID news*.

CANDL’s Advisory Group consists of invited members from a range of backgrounds able to offer differing perspectives on our work. Those invited include ex-users and long-standing current users who are effectively able to represent users’ interests. The Group meets quarterly and receives reports about our work and the opportunity to discuss and critique proposed development. We are very grateful for their invaluable help in keeping us motivated, reflective, responsive and sane! For specific pieces of work we also form Steering Groups, onto which key user groups are invited.

We have also consulted potential and actual clients and other stakeholders about the direction of our work through specific network events. In May 2006 Barnardo’s Policy & Research Unit published an evaluation of our work based on interviewing users and ex-users, and members of the Advisory Group. The views expressed were often almost embarrassingly glowing, and some appear within this report. We are actively progressing an action plan to address the identified areas for improvement.



Audience participation time at CANDL’s ‘Coming of Age’ event

People

Our Greatest Resource

CANDL is one of Barnardo's smaller projects, currently with just over 3 full-time equivalent core Project Workers, a small pool of 'As & When' Project Workers, a part-time Administrator, a part-time Cleaner and a full-time Service Manager.

Tagesa Akpagher	AaW Project Worker	
Lena Alexander	Cleaner	
James Ashdown	Project Worker	<i>Faiths & Community Renewal Initiative Leader</i>
Lillian Brown	AaW Project Worker	
Sonia Chambers	Project Worker	<i>BME Churches Support Initiative Leader</i>
Margaret Collins	Project Worker	<i>PACE Coordinator</i>
Lynda Green	PACE AaW Project Worker	
Beverley Isaacs	Administrator	
Gill Kanga	Project Worker	<i>Family Life/Parenting Support Initiative Leader</i>
Sally Masango	PACE AaW Project Worker	
Simon Vincent	Service Manager	
Karon Woollett	PACE AaW Project Worker	

Our Project Workers are CANDL's core resource in terms of service delivery. Outside the PACE 'service enhancement' these posts have a generalist community development brief that covers the range of services CANDL offers. As the year closes, we have a full-time post, held by Sonia Chambers, focused on work with Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Churches. Approximately one and a third full-time equivalent posts, held by Gill Kanga and James Ashdown, carry a more generic brief. We have an average of 10 hours per week additional 'as and when' time, currently allocated between Tagesa Akpagher and Lillian Brown.

Margaret Collins' 30-hour/week PACE Coordinator post is funded by the Big Lottery Fund, to focus on parenting and community programmes hosted by local churches. In 2006 we entered the second of three years funding. We have recruited 3 'As & When' PWs as co-facilitators for these programmes. The recruitment process for 'As & When' staff has often been lengthy and complex, but brings valuable new energy and skills into the Project.

Our part-time Project Administrator, Beverley Isaacs, manages our financial, office and volunteer systems, also acting as receptionist. Lena Alexander keeps our working areas clean. Simon Vincent, the Service Manager, manages the work, its overall direction and

quality of services, and contributes in the direct delivery of services where appropriate.

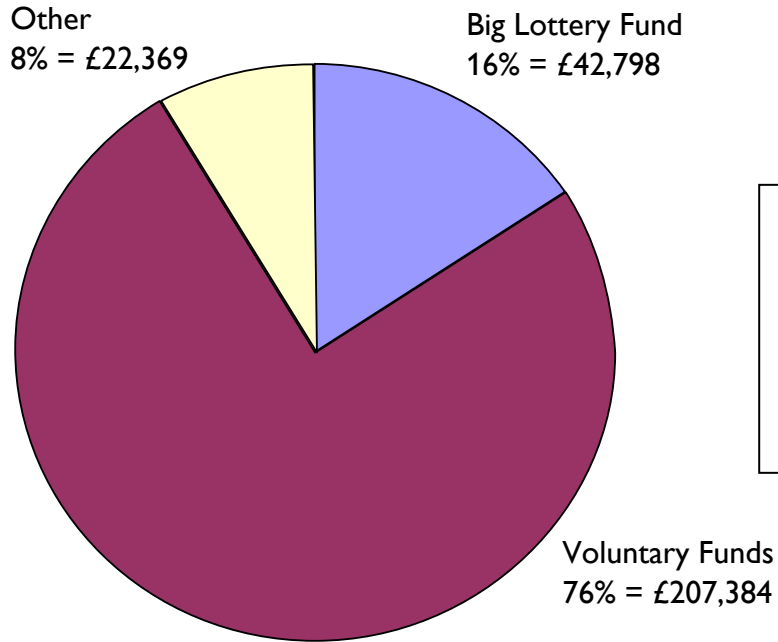
Most of our work involves working with volunteers as members of our Service User Groups. We have a small group of direct volunteers on our Advisory Group and occasional steering groups. Parents completing a PACE programme can enter a training route towards becoming programme facilitators themselves, during which time they sign up as CANDL volunteers. Once training is completed they can apply to become paid "as and when" PWs. We have also had the invaluable help of two young volunteers from local BME churches – Jonathan Chambers and Sam Olaleye – who have contributed their flair and skills to the re-vamp and ongoing production of the *CANDL Light* newsletter. Tagesa has also made a valuable contribution in a voluntary capacity.



Part of the CANDL team

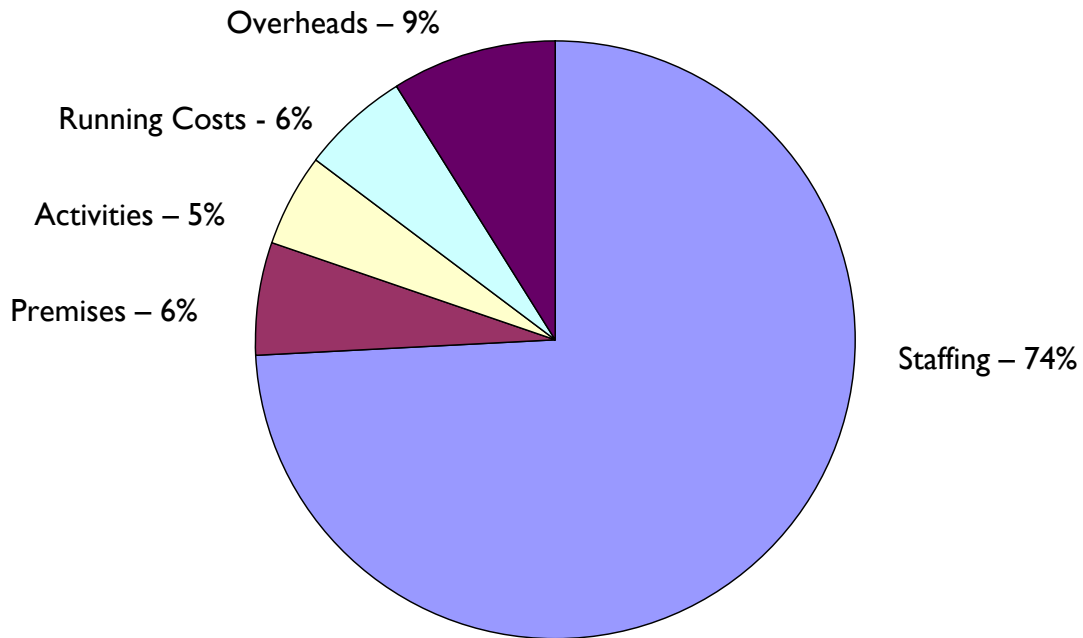
Money

Where it comes from



We exceeded our 2006-7 funding target of 20% non-VF with a year to spare, and expect to achieve nearly 30% in 2007-8

How was it spent?





Summary of Plans for Next Year

BME Churches Support Initiative

During 2007-8 we aim to add significantly to our database regarding BME churches in Southwark, Lewisham, Lambeth and Hackney, enabling us to offer our services more widely. At least 50% of our service time will be dedicated to BME churches. Through our partnership with Visionadda we will work directly with young people to develop the peer mentoring programme (see pages 6 & 7), and to

publish two more issues of *SOLID* news produced by and for BME churches' young people. CANDL will also work with Visionadda to develop the Creative Learning Arts Support Programme (CLASP) youth work model with other service user groups, and make a significant grant application to extend this work.

Family Life/Parenting Support Initiative

2007-8 will see the expansion of our PACE programmes (see pages 4 & 5) from Hackney into other Boroughs in east and south London, running a total of at least 8 programmes in the year. We expect to run at least two programmes focused on Anger Management, and will also work to engage BME churches as programme hosts. We plan for an increase of parents becoming programme facilitators, and expect to have a total of 7 by end of the year. PACE will run a range of refresher/development

workshops for facilitators and others involved in parenting support, including sessions on Groupwork, Diversity/Equal Opportunities, and safeguarding children. We also aim to run our first parallel young people's *Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities* programme, and pilot our teenage parents' course. We will publish at least three *PACE*setter newsletters. We will need to identify funding to continue/develop PACE beyond August 2008.

Faith & Community Renewal Initiative

CANDL will continue to support churches engaging with the Neighbourhood Renewal agenda, including Local Strategic Partnerships etc. We will highlight

the issue of child poverty, for example through *CANDL Light*, and will pursue work with *Hackney Faith in the Community* around local faith-based schools.

Overlapping and Common Work

CANDL will continue to offer information, advice, consultancy and mentoring support to leaders of churches' community initiatives, providing the full service to at least 12 groups, and other services to at least a further 8. This will incorporate specific support re safeguarding children wherever necessary. We will run at least 3 forum/training events focused on specific issues/needs.

least 2 more churches begin to use it. We hope to produce our long-delayed *Inclusion of Disabled Children* Resource Pack, and will add to the downloadable resources on our website. 2007-8 will see us embed the processes for monitoring our outcome indicators.

We will carry out research into the community development and capacity building needs of BME churches in Hackney, for which some initial funding has been gained from Hackney Community Empowerment Network via a partnership with local churches.

We will produce 4 issues of *CANDL Light* with at least 2 Discussion Papers raising issues around churches' community work with children, young people and families, and aim to boost our contribution to Community Development learning through both developing our resources around NVQs and managing a 2-year community work placement.

We will be developing the CANDL Quality Mark as the full pilots with 2 churches reach fruition, and at

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