

# ***Somali Youth Development Resource Centre***

Family and Youth partnership Centre,  
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**Annual Report  
2006**

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## **Summary**

Somali Youth Development Resource Centre (SYDRC) has had a very good year on many levels. We have been successful in achieving and excelling our aims and objectives for the year, which included building relationships and directly engaging the youth with the organisation. The SYDRC is glad to enunciate our close relationship with the youth, which has developed enormously throughout the year. As an organisation for the youth, we have been unsuccessful prior years in engaging the youth directly with our resource centre but the growth that has occurred in 2006 has been astounding. One of the reasons for this is the creation of the Advisory Board (AB), which is made solely up of youths and mentors under the age of 25. The AB has been successful in providing bases for this organisation to drive their policies through the community. Furthermore, the AB has been successful in proposing agendas for the management committee that has seen an increase in implementing more directives for the organisation to advance passed its paralytic stage. The AB has also managed to penetrate the management committee by attempting a successful election, which prompted 4 places to be filled by AB members as part of management. The AB has strong connection with the youth and, as a result, helped this organisation turn the negative image into positive in the year 2006. The youth have a better understanding of SYDRC and are consistently engaged with this organisation and as part of our aim and objectives for 2007 we intend to make this relationship stronger and bigger in size. Our relationships with mainstream organisations such as Connexions, the Youth Offending Team (YOT) and the Metropolitan Police has become stronger and the SYDRC is proud to work with such outstanding pillars of the Camden community. We have also been successful, unlike previous years, to finally open a youth centre for Somali youths in Camden, which has seen an increase in attendance from the time it started in 2001 up to now. We, therefore, are proud of our achievements in 2006 and hope for the better in 2007.

## **Special Recognition**

SYDRC would like to thank the trustees, staff and volunteers, partnership organisations and the Advisory Board. We want to specially recognise the Advisory Board for their relentless hard work and effort in driving and creating SYDRC initiatives. A massive change has been as a result of Advisory Board commitment, which prompted a huge difference in the decision making process and a clear engagement and trust from the Somali youths in Camden.

## **ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **Office Lease & Systems**

St Pancras Housing Association, which is the landlord, increased the annual rent by 60% of the original rent arguing that the rent the organisation pays are well below the market price. The new rent, which will commence from October, is £17,600 annually.

### **Communication**

The SYDRC re-established by creating the New Face of SYDRC, which meant all the problems that faced the organisation, had to be scrutinised and mended. The setting up of the Advisory Board prompted a massive change in policies and the direction the organisation was going. For the first time the organisation had massive input from the youth and weekly meetings drove important initiatives through. There have been communicational advancements in the creation of constant e-mail circulation for Advisory Board members, trustees and other professional organisations.

### **Staff and Volunteers**

#### **Current Staffing**

The current staff of the SYDRC consists of two part time workers who specialise mainly in youth work. The organisation also employs three further outreach and employment workers and one administrator. The latter four of the current staffing are sessional workers.

#### **Volunteers**

Previously the SYDRC has had a pool of volunteers to choose from that has helped the organisation achieve some targets. However, the organisation has now created an Advisory Board that works in conjunction with the management committee whom all are volunteer workers under the age of 25. There are weekly meetings and are also pragmatic in achieving their outreach and mentoring work. There are also different kinds of volunteering work that the Advisory Board engages with.

#### **Staff and Trustee Training**

As procedural duties our coordinator and staff have to engage with many different training courses provided by many different organisations. For example, we have a Youth Work Training Course provided by Youth and Connexions. The course is attended by two staff members that intend to use what they learn as a means of progression within our organisation.

## **Somali Youth Development Project (SYDP)**

This project demonstrated that the SYDRC is an organisation that is rooted deeply within the community. SYDP was designed to produce mentors from the participants of the programmes provided through SYDP. The project prompted the collaboration of SYDRC, YOT and Connexions, which, through hard work and commitment, have made the SYDP a success. Furthermore, the project was a success because the main objective was achieved, which meant that the participants had a key interest in becoming mentors for other youths that need mentoring.

## **External Links**

### **Partnership and Referral Channels**

SYDRC created partnership referral channels with both voluntary and statutory organisations such as secondary schools in the borough, Somali community groups, Youth Offending Teams (YOT) especially Camden and Westminster YOTs, Camden Social Service, Camden LEA, Youth, Connexions Services and Camden Area Youth, The Met, Metropolitan Police, RAISE project and BBC Children in Need. As it is evident our organisation works closely with many different organisations that helps cater to our needs. In the future we hope to build are partnerships up even more.

### **Work partners**

SYDRC works closely with Tavistock & Portman Clinic – Somali Children and Family, Peace of Mind Project, Social Services – Children in Need, Camden Victim Support and Youth Offending Teams of Camden, Brent and Westminster boroughs. SYDRC also takes part in and co-resolves with schools serious conflict among Somali school children and their parents. The organisation also is registered with Camden Youth and Connections Services.

### **Computerised Accounts**

Voluntary Action Camden (VAC) has provided the SYDRC with computerised accounts to keep meticulous details of the budget. All expenses are recorded thoroughly.

## **Crime Prevention Initiatives**

### **Education and youth work**

#### **Displacement and Idleness in the Streets of Camden**

Our team of outreach workers consistently engage with the displaced Somali youths of Camden. Although displacement is a common recurrence in the Somali community we find it hard to look at the Somali youths who are in the streets committing crimes and so on. The outreach team has had many successful meetings with the youths and has managed to directly engage them with our sessions of employment training and education. We also aim to motivate the youth in going back to education by offering them our services. Our organisation maintains a reputation in the community for acquiring university graduates, employed professionals and respected members of the community. Therefore, our organisation aims to portray itself as a positive pillar in the community that aims to show the youths that they can do better for themselves.

#### **Advice & counselling**

At the centre a range of advice and support services are available that include one to one advice and counselling sessions for Somali youth in Camden. Drop-in and appointment services are available for both the Somali youth and their parents in Camden. The organisation offers all sorts of advice including education, housing and local services. The organisation also have working relationship with Tavistock Clinic's Peace of Mind's Somali children counselling service, where those who need more counselling are referred to them. Most of the time our workers signpost all those who need information more than our organisation offers.



## The Advisory Board

The SYDRC has had many volunteers come and go in the past but now consists of committed members that are referred to as the Advisory Board (AB). The AB consists mainly of young men under the age of 25 that are well recognised and respected in the community of Camden. Nearly all are university graduates and employed which as an organisation that aims to help prevent the youth from the streets – this image of positive and progressive youths gives our organisation leverage in the community. There are sixteen members of the AB and all hold positions inside the organisation, which helps the SYDRC, move faster in a steady manner.



*“The Advisory Board is an important mechanism in this organisation. Without it I don’t think the organisation would have a clear aim.”*

Abdikadir Ahmed, 22  
Advisory Board Member

*“I joined because I was worried about the future of the Somali youths in Camden. I am glad that I am part of an organisation that portrays the same amount of worry that I have.”*

Mahad Hussein, 19  
Advisory Board Member

## Management Committee Elections SYDRC

Advisory Board in conjunction with the management committee conducted an election on 1 September 2006. The election was aimed to provide and inform the management committee with the prospect of a complete takeover through democratic means. The acceptance from the management committee meant that two positions were up for election with the prospect of more elections. The election was a success and two members from the Advisory Board were elected in the management committee.



*“This is the first election that I have seen in the black and ethnic community in Camden.”*

Camden Council Representative

*“It’s about time the young people took over this organisation and I am optimistic that we will achieve many goals.”*

Ibrahim Isse, 27  
SYDRC Coordinator

## Events and Activities

### Sports and Recreation

SYDRC engages fully with the youths by providing them with football and swimming sessions. There is weekly football training on Saturdays from 2 pm – 4 at the Canteloves Sports Pitches. The training has attracted many youths from all over Camden and has become a success.

### Somali Youth Unity Cup

SYDRC organised a Somali Youth Unity Cup to try and provide a sense of community within the Somali residents of Camden. The tournament was a success and there has been a vast amount of positive feedback. The tournament took place over a period of two days – from 19 to 20 August 2006. The success of the tournament prompted a larger engagement from the youths with our Organisation.



*“I appreciate the effort SYDRC has put into providing us with this tournament. It shows that there is an organisation that has initiative and preoccupies us.”*

Amine Geele, 18  
Somali Youth



On 19 August 2006 the tournament was mainly aimed at the age groups of 11-13 year olds with 7 teams participating. The overall winners were, ironically, the Youth Awareness team. On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> the tournament was provided for the 14 to 16 year olds which included 3 teams. Over the course of the weekend tournaments the SYDRC managed to attract over 100 supporters that gave great feedback to the organisation. There were medals to winners, runners up and cups for best player and top goal scorer. All in all it was a successful weekend for both participants and SYDRC. The Camden Youth and Connexions funded the tournament.

*“It’s good that we have people that care for our needs like SYDRC.”*

Ayman Saleh, 14  
Somali Youth

## Swimming

SYDRC provided swimming sessions throughout the summer of 2006 for girls and young women. A large number of 40 young women attended it and the sessions ran from 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006 to 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2006. Although the sessions were limited it nevertheless was a success. The sessions ran between 4-5 pm and were open to any young female member of the Camden Somali community. Overall it was another successful activity that the SYDRC provided for the youth. These sessions were funded by Youth and Connexions.



“I like to keep fit and my parents never have the time or the means to let me go swimming. I’m glad SYDRC has provided this for me and people in my situation.”

Halima Mohammed, 14  
Camden Resident

“I like to swim and SYDRC has helped many young girls in my situation in providing sessions for girls only so we can feel safe and secure in our surroundings.”

Ayan Mahamoud, 17  
Camden Resident

## Youth Exchange Programme

SYDRC had been invited to three Youth Exchange Programmes between three European Union (EU) member-states. The member-states included Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands. The trips were designed to help the youth workers gain better training from different sources outside of the UK. Each youth worker had learned a new skill in dealing with issues regarding anti-social behaviour.

### **Stockholm, Sweden (12<sup>th</sup> April – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2006)**

The members of SYDRC that went to Stockholm found that they had gained 'extensive knowledge on key issues surrounding the youth.' They also found that it helped them with team building and management skills. The members discussed a lot of key topics, which include:

- Political systems of EU states
- European Muslim identity
- Family conflict management
- Youth and drug problems
- HIV/AIDs protection methods
- Women and gender problems
- Discrimination and immigration in the Labour market

As part of an initiative gained from the Stockholm conference, the SYDRC has taken into account a proposed event, like that of Stockholm, to be held in London.



### **Amsterdam, Holland (18<sup>th</sup> May – 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2006)**

SYDRC members that attended the Amsterdam conference gained a lot of training from their counterparts in Holland. The training included how to tackle issues surrounding young Somali men and women. The training also provided grounds for all the Somali organisations to build stronger relations with each other. The conclusion of the training dealt with the running and management of Youth Projects which all members in attendance found very helpful.

### **Copenhagen, Denmark (7<sup>th</sup> July – 10<sup>th</sup> July)**

The invitation from Copenhagen had two members from the SYDRC attending. The conference was an invitation from Dalmar Foundation, which is a well-known non-profitable organisation based in Holland. The conference included training in appropriate management of organisations and precise project planning. The conference concluded with personal development training and team building exercises. All three trips were invitations and funded mainly by the European Union Social Fund.



*“This trip (Denmark) not only broadened my horizon but also made me more conscious of the problems Somalis face in other European Union countries. I am very happy about this experience.”*

Jibril Aden, 20  
Advisory Board Member

## ACHIEVEMENT EVENT 2006

The Achievement Event of 2006 was held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March in the London Irish Centre. The audience in attendance were a massive 350, which included many important figures in Camden such as the Mayor of Camden Councillor Barbara Hughes, Connexions director Marks Mark, YOT, and Local Authority Members. The SYDRC also invited Universal Somali TV who found the event very their worthwhile. Plaques were given out to the most outstanding achievers in academia, mainly GCSEs. The top three that received the best GCSEs were given, as such:

**Top: Computer Laptop**

**Runner up: Digital Video Camera**

**Third: Mobile Phone**

The outstanding students are now members of our organisation and leading figures to younger Somali students and youths. The SYDRC has never before had winners of the organisation's previous events as members but this turn around shows the SYDRC's growth as an organisation. The parents and children in the audience were very inspired by the SYDRC's efforts in promoting education and cohesion, which was the organisation's main objective. The event was mainly funded by Children's Fund and SYDRC itself, respectively.



*"I'm glad I was recognised for my hard work and ability. I am also happy to be a role model for other young Somali men in Camden."*

Mohammed Deerow, 18  
Advisory Board member & Best Performing Academic Youth of 2006

## YOUTH CLUB

SYDRC opened the youth club on 8 November 2006, which saw a massive interest not only from the Somali youths but also their parents who agreed with the overall intention of the club. The venue was Castlehaven Youth Club, which is a popular and well-known establishment deeply rooted in the Camden community. The youth club runs two days a week on Wednesdays and Fridays 4 – 6pm. The turnout usually ranges from 45 to 50 and the outreach workers range from 4 to 8 depending on the amount of youths that attend the club. Many activities are arranged during the youth club hours that include table tennis, Playstation 2 tournaments, pool table contests and football sessions provided by the Castlehaven. The Club also runs other non-competitive activities such as drama workshops and volunteering initiatives. The drama workshop began in December and was very popular amongst the youths and was supported and funded by Voluntary Action Camden (VAC). The workshop encouraged the youths to widen their employability prospects and to deepen their understanding society. The volunteering initiatives provided the youths with a clear understanding of how one can make a difference by providing time and effort to a cause such as theirs. This volunteering initiative, provided by the outreach team, prompted massive interest and respect for the SYDRC who are mainly run by volunteers such as the Advisory Board and Outreach team.



“The youth club is an excellent way of keeping us occupied.”

Mohammed Ibrahim, 15

**SYDRC – ANNUAL ACCOUNT**

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2006

	Restricted	2006 General purpose	Total funds	2005 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
<i>Income</i>				
<i>Grants and Donations</i>				
London Borough of Camden - NRF		86,000	86,000	83,829
London Borough of Camden - Children's fund		7,000	7,000	3,075
Peabody Trust		6,633	6,633	-
<b>Family Service Unit (FSU)</b>		5,200	5,200	-
London Borough of Camden - Play scheme			-	500
London Borough of Camden - CCU			-	1,875
	-	104,833	- 104,833	89,279
Total expenditure	-	100,434	100,434	94,832
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	4,399	4,399	(5,553)
Surplus/(deficit) brought forward		14,461	14,461	20,014
Fund balance as at 31 March 2006	-	18,860	18,860	14,461

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### Partners and Supporters

BBC Children in Need,  
Camden Area Youth,  
Camden Council,  
Camden LEA,  
Camden Social Services,  
Connexions Services,  
Metropolitan Police,  
RAISE Project,  
The MET,  
Voluntary Action Camden (VAC),  
Youth Offending Team (YOT).

### Trustees

Mohamoud Nur – *Chair*  
Ahmed Yusuf – *Treasure*  
Abdulkadir Farah  
Abdirashid Sed  
Abdisalan Duale  
Mohamed Hassan  
Abdirahman Warsame  
Mohammed Guhad  
Yusuf Deerow

### SYDRC Organisation Secretary

Duran Farah

### Acting Co-ordinator

Ibrahim isse

### Administration

Awale Olad

### Advisory Board – Volunteers

Abdikadir Ahmed  
Abdikadir Arshe  
Abdiwahab Ali  
Hanad Mohamed  
Isahaq Abdikarim  
Jibril Aden  
Khalid Farah  
Mohammed Deerow  
Omar Deerow  
Omar Ga'al

### Advisory Board E-mail

[advisoryboard@sydrc.org](mailto:advisoryboard@sydrc.org)

### Contact Details

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