



SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Company Registration: 7750061

Charity Registration: 1154824

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 – 2025



Contents

Foreword from the Chair	2
Project Manager's report	3
About SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets	4
Core values	5
Legal status	6
SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets in 2024/25	7
Outcomes at a glance: 2024-2025	8
Financial statement	9
Community services	10
Training hub	14
Women's services	15
Youth services	17/23
Staff, Management Committee and volunteers	24
Partners and funders	25
Annual accounts	26

Foreword from the Chair

It has been an honour to serve as Chairperson of SocietyLinks over the past year. I am proud to say that the organisation has continued to go from strength to strength, achieving a successful year marked by growth, innovation and resilience.

We have launched new and exciting projects such as 'Community Gardening in the Orchard', welcomed new commencements, and initiated meaningful partnerships with a local women's refuge. Our greatest success has been securing funding for longer-term projects, which is vital in a climate where sustainable funding remains a significant challenge in the charity sector.

This year has also been one of reflection and remembrance. We mourn the passing of our co-founder, Abdul Hoque Habib, whose vision, dedication and tireless commitment laid the foundations of SocietyLinks. His legacy continues to inspire our work and will remain at the heart of everything we do.



Looking ahead, I anticipate another exciting year as we remain steadfast in our mission to foster connections and break down barriers for those facing multiple disadvantages. We are committed to working in partnership with other sectors, securing further long-term funding and ensuring that the wide range of services we deliver are not only of the highest standard but also responsive to the needs of those who participate in them.

Finally, I extend my deepest gratitude to our staff, volunteers, and partners. It is their passion, dedication, and hard work that make SocietyLinks what it is today. Together we will continue to honour our past, embrace the present, and build a stronger future for our community.

Sharon Barbour

Chairperson, SocietyLinks

Project Manager's report

The last year has been another busy and productive one, with a sustained focus on stabilising our income to secure the future of our projects and staffing contracts.

I am pleased to report that we have not only maintained three multi-year contracts with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) and a five-year grant with City Bridge Trust, but we have also secured **multi-year funding from the National Lottery**, further strengthening our financial position and enabling us to plan confidently for the future.

A significant milestone has been our achievement of the **Trusted Charities Accreditation**, a recognition of the quality, governance and impact of our work. This accreditation reflects our commitment to high standards and provides assurance to funders, partners and the communities we serve.



This year also saw James Ford, a valued volunteer and trustee of SocietyLinks, win the LBTH Volunteer of the Year Award. We are very proud to have Jim's support and very grateful for all his hard work and efforts.

Our pink building has also had a face-lift; it is now a fresh cream colour to match the surrounding buildings, thanks to Peabody.

We have also continued to **develop new partnerships and strengthen existing ones**, including collaborations with local schools, community organisations and specialist services. These partnerships allowed us to extend our reach, respond to emerging needs, and deliver joined-up support for those facing multiple disadvantages.

Looking ahead, our focus remains on pursuing fundraising for existing services while identifying new areas of need within the community. By combining sustainable funding, strong partnerships, and accredited quality standards, we are well placed to continue delivering impactful programmes that make a real difference.

Joyce Archbold

Managing Director, SocietyLinks

About SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a vibrant community-based charity rooted in the Whitechapel Peabody Estate. Established in 2010 by passionate founders committed to supporting disadvantaged local residents, the organisation began with tailored youth services and English classes for beginners, delivered entirely by dedicated volunteers. These early efforts laid a strong foundation within the community and enabled SocietyLinks to secure funding to expand its services.

Today, SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a trusted pillar of the local community, delivering a wide range of projects designed to empower residents, build confidence, and improve wellbeing. Our mission is to create opportunities and provide practical support leading to tangible, positive change for individuals and families. We work in partnership with other organisations to maximise impact, delivering services across Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.

Our vision is to remain a sustainable, responsive presence within the community, continuously developing innovative projects that reflect the changing needs of local people. By engaging residents and connecting them to the wealth of opportunities around them, we aim to ensure that everyone feels included, supported, and able to thrive.



Our core values

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets actively challenges discrimination and welcomes residents from all sections of the community regardless of their race, gender, disability, sexuality, religion, and political and cultural beliefs.

The core values of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets are as follows:

1. We value the residents of Tower Hamlets as an ethnically diverse community with rich enhanced experiences and high human potential.
2. We aim to support residents to:
 - a) support one another to live more fulfilling lives by securing better futures
 - b) live healthy lives in a safe and comfortable environment
 - c) participate in the life of the community
 - d) take part in education, training, and recreation opportunities
 - e) secure decent housing, employment, and an adequate income.
3. We endeavour to:
 - a) be accountable and responsive to residents
 - b) be flexible and innovative in the delivery of quality services
 - c) work in partnership with other agencies whenever possible and appropriate
 - d) oppose discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender, age, sexuality and disability.



Legal status

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. The Management Board constitutes six directors, who are also trustees, with an appointed chairperson, secretary and treasurer. A list of all the directors can be found at the end of this report.

Constitution

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' constitution sets out the following objectives:

1. To advance education and training for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.
2. To reduce unemployment in such ways as may be thought fit.
3. To promote inclusion for the public benefit by preventing people from becoming excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are socially excluded and assisting them to integrate into society.
4. To promote equality and diversity for the public benefit by, for example:
 - a) eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion
 - b) advancing education and raising awareness of equality and diversity
 - c) promoting activities to foster understanding between people from diverse backgrounds
 - d) conducting or commissioning research on equality and diversity issues and publishing the results to the public
 - e) cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.
5. To advance in life and relieve the needs of young people through the provision of:
 - a) recreational and leisure activities provided in the interest of welfare, designed to improve their conditions of life
 - b) support and activities to develop their skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals.
6. Such other charitable purposes for the public benefit as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales, as the trustees may from time to time determine.

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets in 2024-2025

This year, SocietyLinks introduced several new services that reflect our ongoing commitment to community support and inclusion. We launched our Monday Integrated SEND Group, funded by LBTH, offering tailored activities for children with and without special educational needs and disabilities. Alongside this, we opened our Toy Library, giving families access to high-quality play resources that support learning, creativity, and connection.

We worked with a considerable number of partners over the year, including University College London (UCL) on the 'Visible Co-Space Study' and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, which set up a 'winter warmer' which constituted of a collection box for employees to donate warm clothing items for distribution among local residents.



These new strands have been well received by our community and we remain committed to shaping our evolving programme offer. We anticipate building on this momentum in the coming year.

SocietyLinks' Summer Programme was very busy with projects running simultaneously from two different sites. We also continued to run Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes across holiday periods, which continued to be extremely popular.

A year in figures

What SocietyLinks achieved between April 2024 and March 2025:

- **1,841** residents used SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' services.
- **746** residents attended a SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' community event.
- **625** children and young people aged 0-19 years engaged with SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets.
- **48** adults and young people took part in accredited training, in areas such as first aid, food safety, health and safety, customer service and ASDAN awards.
- **45** residents received employment support (of whom 42% gained a job).
- **51** volunteers supported SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, including the trustees, young people gaining work experience, and residents of all ages supporting at one-off events and regular sessions.
- **£461,954** of funding was secured by SocietyLinks to continue delivering projects and services.



Outcomes at a glance: 2024-2025

- There is a remarkable increased sense of cohesion within the community, with positive relationships among residents and a stronger sense of belonging to the locality.
- Residents have accessed targeted online employment support resulting in tangible progress towards sustainable employment.
- Residents have accessed pre-ESOL support resulting in increased literacy, confidence and independence.
- Vulnerable local residents and families have accessed free food packs.
- Households without access to digital devices have received devices to support educational attainment, progress and inclusiveness.
- Young people have engaged in online and face-to-face youth club sessions with access to positive, constructive activities, educational workshops, sports and trips.
- Older people have attended weekly sessions at the centre where staff have been able to support them with issues.
- Women have attended digital inclusion sessions and have gained skills to support them and their families overcome digital barriers.
- Girls and young women have gained confidence and new skills through workshops and activities.
- Local families with under five's have accessed stay and play sessions receiving support and guidance on early development.
- Young people have gained certified qualifications through online training courses, increasing their employability and confidence.
- Young people have completed work experience and volunteering through the Summer Project, gaining confidence, skills and knowledge.
- Children and young people have accessed online support with their school work and exam preparation, resulting in higher attainment in public exams.



Financial statement

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets ended the 2024/25 financial year in a stable financial position with a stronger reserve position, as demonstrated by our annual accounts.

We have continued our pro-active fundraising strategy. Through our strong community connections and responsive planning, we accessed funding for projects to meet the changing needs of the community. The year-on-year in our income continued to increase despite the funding difficulties faced by the entire charity sector.

We have continued to grow the size of our reserves in line with our increasing operating costs – due to running more projects. Our reserves remain sufficient to maintain existing services for a minimum of six months in case of a shortfall or delay in income from grants.

Longer-term funding

We have multi-year funding in place for most of our bigger projects, having successfully applied for long-term grants to financially secure our existing large projects and to commence more large projects, which has led us to provide new and existing services to new communities further away from our centre. We have continued to always recognize that long-term funding is key to giving our service users and skilled staff confidence in service continuity. This has enabled us to build trust and long-term relationships with new and existing users of our services.

The charity funding environment continues to be under intense pressure as the lasting impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic constrain public and private funding for the charity sector. Similarly, the cost-of-living crisis is impacting SocietyLinks; it is restricting funding availability, while causing the needs of service users to grow rapidly. We already have funding in place for most of our projects in the medium term and we are confident we can access further funding to secure the longer-term provision of our services.

Forecast

In 2025-2026, funding will remain a priority and a challenge for SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets. We are confident that given our successful performance across all our projects we will be able to renew funding and start new programmes.

We aim to further consolidate our position while continuing our expansion into other community centres and service areas through taking on larger-scale and longer-term projects. Our financial aim for 2025-2026 is to secure larger, multi-year grants of between £80,000 and £100,000 across three-year funding periods to finance our long-term projects and to give the organisation longer-term stability and consistent growth.

Community services

Job Club

The Job Club was an ongoing, core service with a steady flow of new attendees. We were able to provide support with writing CVs and personal statements, interview practice, sending people to job fairs, and providing volunteering opportunities for those who were looking for experience. A considerable number of participants had successful outcomes with job applications and have secured employment in various roles in schools, nurseries and other professions. We have worked with partners such as ELBA and Ingeus to refer people to other opportunities such as apprenticeship programmes and training opportunities.

Digital Divide

We continued to equip the older generation within our Older People's Club with the skills and confidence needed to navigate technology such as smart phones and laptops. Our efforts have provided valuable insight into using devices effectively, enabling participants to integrate technology into their daily lives and overcome their lack of confidence with technology. We have continued to support the group to feel comfortable using the internet for daily tasks. With our guidance, they have grasped a basic understanding of how to use applications and become proficient with navigating online websites and services to enhance their day-to-day activities. These efforts aim to empower individuals to embrace technology, improving their independence and quality of life. We have provided tailored support to meet the needs of individual residents, such as learning how to video call or using phone applications to play traditional games online safely, such as chess.

Over 50s Group

Our Over 50s Group, funded by LBTH Mayor's Grants, remained a popular and vital service for the local community. The programme offered residents digital support, access to gardening activities in the Swedenborg Orchard, armchair exercise sessions and other leisure activities. The attendees have enjoyed art and craft activities and a game of bingo, as well as conversing and simply enjoying each other's company. They attended events as a group and were keen to maintain the ongoing sessions. The sessions attracted a lot of volunteers: local residents and young children like to pop-by and say hello and play games with the older residents.



City of London Mosaic Project

Over the summer we were funded by City of London to tackle issues relating to antisocial behaviour and unrest among the residents living on the Golden Lane Estate. Conflict was arising between different generational groups, leading to a rise in complaints and a lost sense of ownership and belonging among the youth. Our programme offered six weeks of consultation events and mosaic making workshops, open to everyone in the community. The drop-in sessions were held outdoors in the communal estate space to avoid any barriers of access.

The project was very well received by the community and the result was two large mosaics, made with contributions from people of all ages from the community. Attendees sat together and conversed with each other; everyone helped each other to finish off larger pieces of work or finding the right pieces to fit. Many participants reported that they had made new friends and had opportunities to meet other people and neighbours to whom they had never said hello before.

The City of London agreed to display the mosaics within the Golden Lane Estate in public areas and have reported a huge drop in complaints from residents.

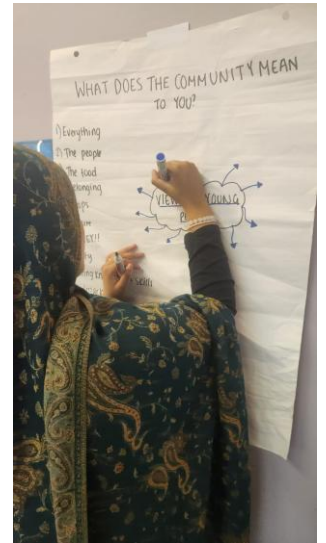


Fisher Foods

Fisher Foods continued to run as a vital foodbank service supported by the LBTH foodbank service and The Felix Project. Although deliveries varied each week, the support was much appreciated by families, especially those with elderly members and young children.

The service was run by a group of our committed volunteers who received the deliveries, sorted and arranged the supplies, and distributed food parcels to the local residents.

During the holidays we accepted food boxes from the Mayor of London's Take and Make/Create and Make/Heat and Eat scheme. The boxes came with recipes and ingredients to cook a healthy meal for a family of four to five or a ready-to-eat hot meal. The boxes also usually contained fresh fruit and vegetables. We distributed approximately 90 to 120 of these boxes each school holiday.



Insanity Fitness

Insanity Fitness on a Tuesday evening continued to be very popular with frequent requests for additional sessions. The session was for men aged over 18 years and aimed to increase their general fitness and strength through resistance training exercises. The session was run by a qualified instructor who is passionate about supporting people to make better choices in life and improve their wellbeing.

Christmas 2024

Christmas was celebrated with a community party at Stockholm House with Santa's grotto and special guest Snow White. Gifts for the local children were kindly donated by ELBA and UBS as part of the annual toy appeal. Families enjoyed popcorn and hot dogs and took part in festive games and competitions. We had separate events at Raines House for our older people's and under 5s group, which were very successful and welcomed special visitors including the British Transport Police.



KitchenLinks

This year saw the end of the KitchenLinks programme, which offered online cooking classes for families via Instagram Live, as well as budgeting sessions and support with pre-ESOL and numeracy.

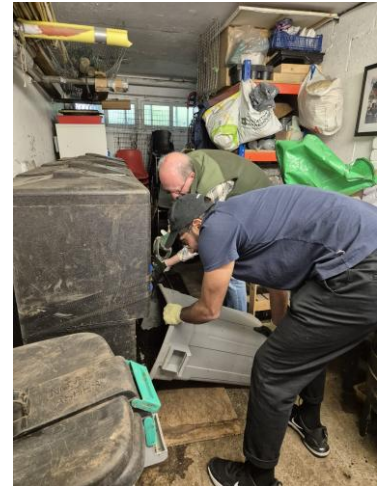
We are looking for more funding to continue the sessions or offer a similar service because it was in such high demand.

Gardening

Our community garden programme truly took off this year. Residents have begun growing their own fruit and vegetables in our newly refurbished garden boxes, bringing fresh produce and a renewed sense of ownership to the space. Volunteers from AXA joined us to cut back and tidy the overgrown areas, ensuring the garden remained an accessible, welcoming environment for all. The volunteers' support was invaluable in supporting us to maintain a vibrant space that encourages sustainable living and community connection.

Our 'Eat Not, Waste Not' project at Swedenborg Square Orchard quickly became a popular addition to our offer. Focused on reducing food waste and its impact on the local environment, the project promoted practical, community-led solutions. Hot bins were used to compost food waste, while waste was mulched to support sustainability.

Local residents have actively volunteered their time, contributing to the maintenance of the space and sharing knowledge. We have delivered a series of workshops and sessions in the orchard, supporting others to understand how small changes in waste management can make a meaningful difference.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

This year, SocietyLinks proudly hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning, collectively raising £143.52 to support people living with cancer. The event was part of a nationwide initiative by Macmillan Cancer Support, encouraging communities to come together over coffee and cake to fund vital services. Our coffee morning brought staff, volunteers, and residents together in a warm, welcoming space to share conversation, enjoy refreshments, raise awareness, and contribute to a meaningful cause.



Training hub

Pre-ESOL/ESOL

Our pre-ESOL sessions remained in high demand. Due to their success we continued to run these sessions this year after securing additional funding. We continued to have a long waiting list and two cohorts running consecutively. The sessions have had amazing outcomes including progression onto entry-level ESOL and confidence in speaking, enabling independence, communication, and the gaining of first literacy skills for a considerable number of individuals.

ELLATT continued to facilitate ESOL Entry-Level 2 classes for our service users, which enabled many to move onto further education and training courses at college and other adult education settings.

'I enjoy this class because I talk with everyone and it makes me learn more to talk better English.' R. Ahmed

Childcare Level 2

External training providers delivered two cohorts of Childcare Level 2 courses over the course of the year, which resulted in 25 individuals gaining qualifications, enabling them to further develop their career and progress their employment prospects.



Staff training and development

Staff development remained a key focus through the year. We offered Level 3 Emergency First Aid at Work training for staff and volunteers across the year, ensuring our teams are fully compliant and equipped in the case of an emergency.

We welcomed a new apprentice – a Level 6 Youth Work Apprentice – who actively contributed to our programmes while gaining valuable experience. Our Business Management Apprentice was nearing completion of her Level 5 qualification, having made significant progress over the past year.

All staff remained committed to their statutory training, including safeguarding refreshers, first aid, equality and diversity, and health and safety. This ongoing investment in professional development supports us to maintain high standards of care, safety, and inclusivity across all areas of our work.

Women's services

Women's Group: Stay Smart, Stay Safe

Our women's group continued to thrive every Thursday, supported by ongoing funding from LBTH through the Mayor's Community Grants Project. The sessions offered a welcoming and empowering space for women of all backgrounds to come together, share experiences, and learn from one another.

A key feature of the programme was the regular involvement of guest speakers, including the local Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), who lead workshops and discussions on safety-related issues affecting the community. These sessions gave women the opportunity to raise concerns, ask questions, and explore topics that were causing anxiety or confusion. The SNT played a vital role in dispelling rumours and misconceptions by sharing facts, case studies and practical advice.



Over time, attendees have built strong, supportive networks that span faiths, cultures and generations. Each session included a creative activity, such as canvas painting, embroidery, weaving, or textile design, paired with an informative workshop. Topics ranged from home safety and domestic violence, to women's heart health, menopause awareness, cervical and breast cancer, and the realities of motherhood, parenting, and caring responsibilities. We also introduced workshops on health and energy saving, supporting women make informed choices for their households and wellbeing. They supported two local women who put forward projects for the Communities Keeping Well programme with presentations and voting.



Our most popular workshops have been our menopause and breast cancer awareness and Q&A sessions led by Dr Jamila, a local GP with strong community connections. Our service users were able to ask questions openly and clear any misconceptions about their bodies and health.

'The workshop was brilliant, being able to actually understand the symptoms of menopause and the help that is out there for women. I always thought it only happened to older women; I know now it can start a lot earlier!' M. Yasmin

Sewing

Our sewing sessions have flourished this year, becoming a vibrant hub of creativity and peer support. Each week, new participants joined the group, contributing to a growing community of women sharing skills, ideas and encouragement. Using scraps of fabric and reused textiles, attendees have created their own items, from upcycled and torn clothing to new stunning fashion pieces.

Beyond the creative output, the sessions offered a therapeutic space where women felt safe to talk openly, learn from one another, and build lasting connections. The project promoted sustainability, wellbeing, and empowerment through hands-on making and mutual support.

'I love coming sewing every week. It's always positive to see everyone and we always make something crazy each week. I can't really sew much but I love watching everyone and learning. You leave the session smiling each week.'

T. Begum



Girls' Group

Girls' Group has gone from strength to strength this year, with more girls joining and making great progress. Each week, the sessions mixed creative activities with workshops that spark discussion on topics the girls are passionate about.

The creative side was all about trying new things and having fun. With guidance from the youth team, the girls have learned skills like crocheting bags, painting on glass and silk, making desserts, modelling clay, and even creating their own stationery. These hands-on activities not only gave them the chance to explore their creativity, but also helped them connect with their contemporaries building friendships, teamwork, and a real sense of community.

The workshops focused on issues like body positivity, mental health, bullying, puberty, and personal safety. They provided a safe space where the girls could talk openly, share experiences, and get support and advice without fear of judgement. The group welcomes girls aged eight to 16, with up to 30 attending each week. It has been running successfully for over six years, proving to be a vital part of the community and a place where young people feel heard, supported and inspired.



International Women's Day

This year International Women's Day focused on empowering women through historical role models. We had guest speakers from SNT and Women's Network who spoke about the support and services available. The women shared food and made their own hand lotions. It was a lovely occasion celebrating our strong women and giving them the recognition that they deserve.

Youth services

Youth Club

This year's youth club delivered weekly sessions packed with engaging activities including pool, PlayStation 5, art and craft, science experiments, and themed workshops. With consistently high attendance, the club has proven to be a vital service for local young people, offering a safe and welcoming space in which to relax, connect with peers, and access support from qualified youth workers.



Workshops were tailored to address issues relevant to 10-16 year olds, and referrals were made to external organisations where appropriate. The sessions provided opportunities for young people to engage independently with friends, aiming to reduce isolation or anti-social behaviour out of school hours.



A key highlight this year was the group's visit to University College London to take part in the Visible CoSpace study initiative. Young people explored the university setting, interacted with researchers, and contributed to discussions around youth mental health. For many of the group, it was their first experience of a university campus, and the visit left them feeling inspired and proud to have taken part in the experience.



City Of London Youth Service

Our partnership with the City of London continued to deliver high-quality play and youth services. This year's offer included one mixed session at Golden Lane Community Centre, a mixed session at Portsoken Community Centre, and a dedicated girls' group also based at Portsoken Community Centre.

The girls' group remained popular. In response to participant feedback, we ran a six-week Bake Off-style course where young people explored baking techniques, teamwork, and creative presentation. Activity themes reflected the interests and needs of our participants, covering substance misuse, body confidence, social media, Black History Month, environmental awareness, and current affairs.

We also delivered HAF programmes during the school holidays and hosted seasonal events including Christmas parties, summer fun days, and informative consultation events for the residents of the City of London.



Taekwondo

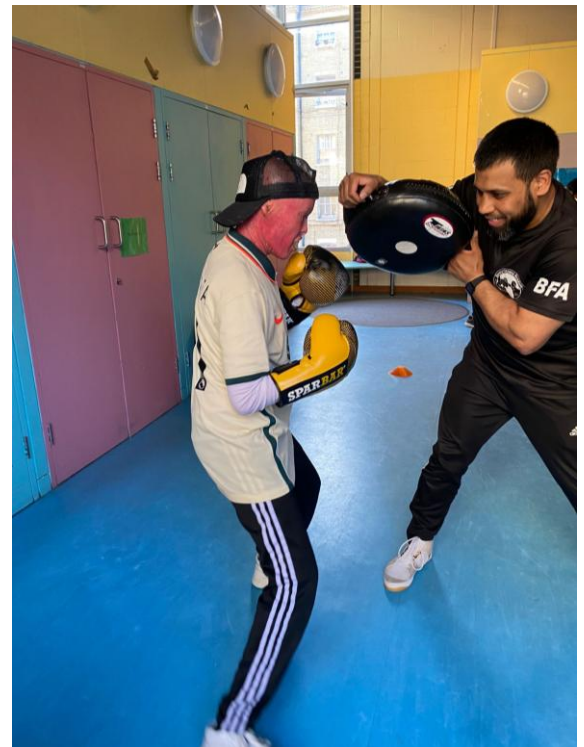
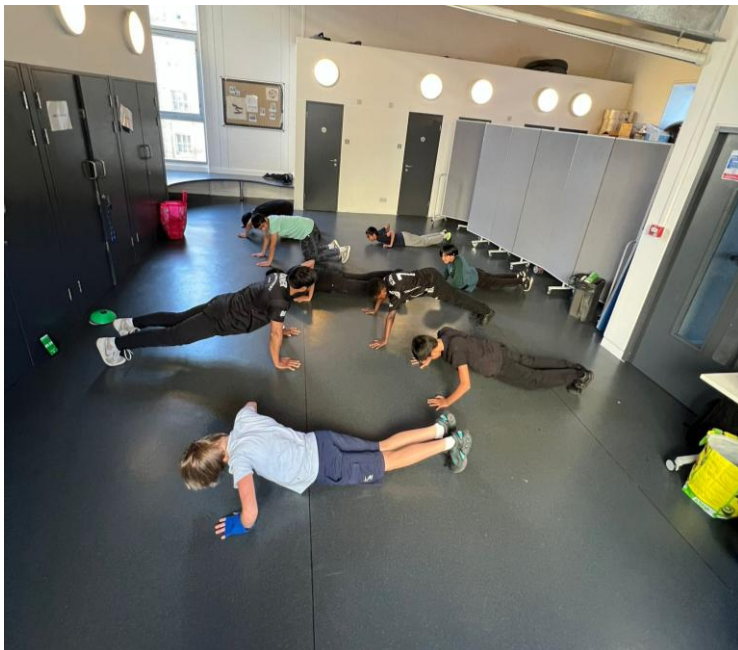
Our Taekwondo sessions, led by Master Shujahat Fiaz and Master Stephen Zheng, continued to support young people's physical and personal development. Participants progressed through formal gradings, with several achieving internationally recognised black belts. The programme welcomed new students, including young women and SEND learners, while older participants took on mentoring roles to build leadership and peer support skills. Sessions were supported by youth workers, ensuring inclusive and holistic support throughout the year.

SocietyLinks Taekwondo remains a vital strand of our youth provision, offering not only technical skill development but a pathway to confidence, community engagement, and long-term personal growth.



Boxing and self-defence

We continued to offer non-contact mixed boxing classes every Wednesday evening, led by a qualified tutor and funded by the Hargreaves Foundation. The sessions focused on technique, fitness, and discipline in a safe and inclusive environment, without sparring or physical contact. Participants of all ages and backgrounds benefit from improved physical health, confidence, and mental wellbeing, while enjoying the practical and motivational aspects of group training.



Saturday Sports

Saturday mornings in the park became a lively hub for children aged eight to 12 through our Saturday Sports programme. Led by experienced youth workers, participants engaged in football, cricket, basketball, and a variety of team games that promoted physical fitness, coordination, and collaboration.

The sessions offered a consistent space for children to learn, practise and refine their physical skills, while building friendships and confidence in a safe, supportive environment. The programme was a valuable part of our weekend offer, encouraging healthy habits and active play.



Study Support

Our Study Support programme provides structured academic support for children and young people from eight to 13 years.

Weekly sessions led by two qualified youth workers offered a calm, focused environment where children could complete homework or engage with tailored worksheets and tasks with the support and guidance of qualified tutors, teachers or youth workers. These sessions reinforced learning skills and helped build confidence in young people, particularly those needing extra support outside school.

For 14–16 year olds, we delivered targeted GCSE maths preparation through small-group sessions led by a specialist tutor. These sessions focused on key topics and exam techniques, supporting learners identified as struggling or at risk of under-achievement.



Stay and Play

Building on the success of last year's stay-and-play sessions, we continued to offer weekly activities for families with children under five. This year we also launched our new toy library service. The sessions have become a valued part of our early years provision, offering a safe, welcoming space for children to play and explore while parents connect, share experiences, and access informal support.

Led by our experienced play worker, this year's sessions introduced new sensory play activities, seasonal crafts, and outdoor exploration. Highlights included nature walks, messy play sessions, teddy bear picnics, and storytelling sessions. Parents have consistently praised the sessions for their inclusive atmosphere, the quality of developmental resources, and the positive impact on their children's confidence and skills.

The programme continued to encourage and support early learning through play; supporting families to build routine, resilience, and community connection.

British Science Week

Young people took part in a range of hands-on science experiments, sparking curiosity and excitement throughout the sessions. Activities included making lava lamps and mini volcanoes – both hugely popular and visually engaging. Participants enjoyed exploring the fun side of science, applying their knowledge, asking questions, and sharing ideas as they worked through each experiment. The sessions encouraged creativity, teamwork, and a deeper interest in scientific understanding.



Easter HAF Project 2024

During the Easter holidays (April 2024), we delivered our HAF programme in the local park, offering a mix of fun, structured activities and nutritious meals. Children took part in football, table tennis, cricket, art and craft activities, and writing competitions, under the supervision of qualified youth workers. The open-air setting promoted physical activity and wellbeing, while the provision of free meals and supervised play offered vital support to vulnerable families during the school holidays.



Summer HAF Project 2024 and London Docks Summer Eco-Arts Programme

We successfully delivered our Summer HAF Club 2024 across 16 days from Swedenborg Gardens Park. The programme engaged more than 200 children and young people from across the borough, offering a safe, inclusive, and enriching environment that combined healthy meals, creative workshops, physical activities, and wellbeing support.

Both the outdoor park sessions and the indoor eco-themed programme were hugely successful. Participants of our eco project produced a vibrant environmental display, demonstrating their learning and creativity. We celebrated the end of the summer with two large community BBQs, bringing families together in a relaxed and festive atmosphere.



Throughout the programme, we supported eight young people through our Young Volunteers Scheme, enabling them to gain hands-on experience across different areas of our organisation.

We welcomed visits from SNT, police horses, and the British Transport Police, who contributed to the safety of our sessions. We also took participants on several trips this summer, including to Go Ape, Top Golf and other local attractions.



RainbowLinks

RainbowLinks introduced monthly webinars this year, featuring expert speakers to support parents and carers of young people with SEND. Alongside this, we continued to offer integrated services for young people with and without SEND, ensuring all sessions were equipped to welcome those with additional needs.

We launched a designated session focused on homework support and youth activities for our SEND cohort, providing tailored guidance in a safe and inclusive environment.



Come & Play Co-Pilot Project

LBTH commissioned us to deliver a play engagement pilot programme from a local school to encourage engaging in physical play after school hours. The programme was well received by children and their families because they enjoyed playing together and having a space available to them where they felt comfortable and safe to relax and play.



Staff, Management Committee and volunteers 2024/25

Staff

Managing Director: Joyce Archbold
Deputy Manager: Rahima Khanom
Office Manager: Mahira Yasmin
Fundraiser/ Admin: Nusrat Begum
Youth Work Manager: Natasha Freya
Youth Work Lead: Joynul Ahmed
Youth Work Lead: Syed Ahmed
Early Years Lead Practitioner: Pipeta O'Brian
Project Coordinator: Hasina Begum
Youth Worker: Betina Wembo
Youth Worker: Aneesah Rashid
Youth Worker: Ambia Begum
Youth Worker: Madihah Khan
Youth Worker: Yasir Hussain Hyder
Youth Worker: Antoine Louis
Youth Worker: Nahid Ahmed
Project Worker: Bulirun Nessa
Project Worker: Nasima Aktar
Project Worker: Rita Rahman
Project Worker: Ruksana Begum
Project Worker: Sayra Khanom
Project Worker: Shozwana Khanom
Project Worker: Shana Khatun
Project Worker: Tara- Maria Rathour
Project Worker: Genia Leontowitsch
Project Worker: Habiba Khatun
Sports Coach: Sayek Khan
Sports Coach: Shujuhat Fiaz
Sports Coach: Ashraf Ali
Tutor: Sultana Begum
Tutor: Samad Hussain
Tutor: Heather Smith

Board of Trustees

Chair: Sharon Barbour
Treasurer: Alex Kind
Secretary: James Ford
Trustee: Rahima Khanom
Trustee: Nicole Quotromini
Director: Joyce Archbold

Volunteers

Ian Roberts
Anisa Yasmin
Lamha Mohd
Tamim Mohd
James Ford
Asma Begum
Ujjwala Dasgupta
Shajeda Aktar
Jaheda Aktar
Ripa Aktar
Shanaz Begum
Fahmida Akthar
Samid Ahmed
Zara Salam
Noushin Chaklader
Jannat Ahmed
Afrin Chaklader
Sara Ahmed
Saima Khanom
Foyzur Rahman
Abdullah Ahmed
Shah Hussain
Khalida Khatun
Shima Akter
Emran Ali
Tarikur

Accountant

Earl and Grey Accountants: Razaul Kaabir/ Nozmul Hussain

Partners and funders

Partners

Bromley by Bow Centre
E1 Gardeners
East End Homes
ELBA
Ingeus
Linkage Plus
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Look Ahead
NatWest Bank
Peabody Housing Association
Pollyanna Theatre School
Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Safer Neighbourhoods Teams
Savage Words
Super Youth Hub
Team DJB Taekwondo
The Felix Project
Tower Hamlets Talking Therapies
Twin Group E-Training
University College London

Funders

London Borough of Tower Hamlets
City of London
City Bridge Trust
Global Charities
Peabody
Tower Hill Trust
Wakefield Trust
Just Fact – WEN
East End Community Foundation
Hargreaves Foundation
William Wates Memorial Trust
Trust for London
British Science Association
Garfield and Weston Foundation
National Lottery TNL Fund
Sports England Movement Fund
Cory Group
Worshipful Company of Gardeners
Tesco Stronger Starts
Gosling Foundation

Reg No. 07750061
Charity Reg No: 1154824

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Financial statements for the year ended
31 March 2025

CONTENTS

	Page
Charity Information	1
Independent Examiners' Report	2
Income and Expenditure Account	3-4
Balance Sheet	5
Trustees Report (Including Public benefit Statement)	6-8

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Name of Organisation: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets

Correspondence Address: The Whitechapel Centre
80 John Fisher Street
London
E1 8JX

Tel: 020 7702 0901

Chairperson: Sharon Barbour

Treasurer: Alex Kind

Trustees: James Ford
Nicole Quotromini
Joyce Archbold
Rahima Khanom

Independent Examiner: Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Banker: Natwest Plc
Plaistow Branch
386 Barking Road
London
E13 8JB

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees/Management Committee for the year ended 31st March 2025

The financial statements laid out in this report on page 3 to 5 have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities Commission issued in March, 2005 and applicable Accounting Standards and the Charities Act 1993.

Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and that you consider the audit requirements of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, this act does not apply. It is our responsibility to examine the financial statements under section 43(3) (e) of the 1993 Act. Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commissioners (under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act and;

Basis of Independent Examiners' Statement

The examination of the accounts was carried out in accordance with general direction given by the Charity's Commissioner. The examination includes:

- A review of the accounting records kept by the Charity.
- A comparison of the accounts presented with those records made available.
- It includes consideration of any unusual items if disclosures in the accounts.

Finally, making explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters relating to the accounts. The examination also includes examination of any such matters of evidence relevant to the account of disclosures in the financial statements. It includes assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charity's circumstances consistently applied and adequately disclosed. The procedures undertaken

do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners' Statement

In connection with my examination no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

- (2) to which in our opinion attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Opinion

In my opinion the financial statement as prepared give a true and fair view of the charity's state of affairs as at 31st March 2025 and that the incoming resources and their application in the year then ended have been properly prepared in accordance with general direction given by the Charities Commissioner.


Razaul Kabir ACCA/IFA/MIPA

Earl & Grey Accountants
Suite 14/2G
Docklands Business Centre
10-16 Tiller Road
London E14 8PX

Date: 11th October 2025

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Income and Expense

For the Period Ended 31 March 2025

	Restricted	Unrestricted
Income	£	£
City of London	114,696	
City Bridge Foundation	41,593	
Action Fund	5,000	
LBTH - Mayors Community Grant	129,600	
British Science Association	4,417	
Cory Community fund	3,000	
East End Community Foundation (EECF)	9,000	
Sports England - Movement Fund	14,496	
Garfield Weston	20,000	
Ground Work	1,000	
Hedley Grant	2,500	
Just Fact	10,900	
LCY Community	2,958	
Peabody	5,000	
Global Charities	30,000	
Goslin Foundation	5,000	
Merchant Taylors	3,000	
National Lottery Awards All	19,920	
Sheldon Trust	5,000	
Womens Environment Network	1,000	
Tower Network PCN	2,080	
Wakefield	3,000	
Worshipful Company of Gardens	2,500	
People's Health Trust	3,944	
Trust For London	18,750	
Tower Hill Trust	3,600	
East London Advance		240
E training - Rent		6,698
Donations		4,953
Hall hire		365
Total Income	461,954	12,256
		474,210

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

		31.03.25		31.03.24
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Previous year
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Grants:				
All Grants	-	461,954	461,954	440,799
Contracts	-		-	-
JRS (Furlough)	-	-	-	-
		461,954	461,954	440,799
Other income:				
Rental income	7,303		-	365
Donations	4,953			4,903
Total incoming resources	12,256	461,954	474,210	446,067
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Operating costs:				
Admin, Finance & Proj Mang		70,363		60,091
Project Staff		252,016		256,479
				-
Equipment, Trips & Project Costs		102,739		70,687
Rent		24,557		24,557
<u>Premises Cost</u>				
Cleaning		-		-
<u>Administrative Expenses</u>				
Subscriptions		-		
Training		3,922	1,154	
Fund Raising & Publicity		-	4,900	
Insurance		891	922	
Tel & Internet		324	360	
Pension		5,684	5,555	
		10,820		12,891
<u>Financial Expenses</u>				
Bank Charges	348			329
Governance costs				
Accountancy	1,260			1,260
Legal & Other Professional	1,650			3,720
Total resources expended	3,258	460,495	433,754	430,014
Net income	8,997	1,458	10,456	16,052

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Balance Sheet At 31 March 2025

			31/03/2025	31/03/2024
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank	138,431	57,463	195,894	175,897
Debtors		52,455	52,455	62,455
CREDITORS				
Amounts falling due within one year		(16,939)	(16,939)	(17,398)
NET CURRENT ASSETS	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
NET ASSETS	138,431	92,979	231,410	220,954
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds			138,431	132,103
Restricted funds			92,979	88,851
TOTAL FUNDS			231,410	220,954

SOCIETYLINKS TOWER HAMLETS

Trustees Report

Registered Name & Address: SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets, 80 John Fisher Street, London, E1 8JX

Registered Charity Number: 1154824

Registered Company Number: 7750061

Public Benefits Statement

Introduction

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets as a registered charity is committed to compliance and transparency; it strives to demonstrate its benefit for the local residents and wider community. This statement identifies and sets out the aims, purpose, mission and public benefit that the charity provides.

Our Aims and Objectives

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is a community-based charity providing opportunities and activities to address the needs of underprivileged people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.

Through small, targeted projects it empowers people to make significant lifestyle and social changes, and to achieve long-term improvements to their quality of life and that of their families. The activities focus on education and training, unemployment, social exclusion, equality and diversity, and improving the life chances of local people.

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets works towards its vision of being a sustainable pillar within the community, providing ongoing services for all residents and introducing innovative, new projects to meet the increasing needs of the local population. SocietyLinks aims to build strong partnerships with other organisations to maximize our efficiency and output. SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets envisages being able to deliver services across the borough from different venues and reaching out to neighbouring boroughs within London.

Charitable Purpose and Mission

SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets' mission is to create opportunities and activities to address the needs of residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social change through creating practical projects.

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are General Charitable Purposes:

- (i) To promote the advancement of education, training, employment and enterprise support for people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.
- (ii) To promote and organise educational and social development of young people who are socially excluded and disengaged from their aspirations.
- (iii) To provide a voice for an under represented generation.
- (iv) To promote equality and tackle exclusion.
- (v) To create opportunities and activities to address the significant needs of deprived and underprivileged residents, with the ethos of bringing about radical lifestyle and social changes to improve the quality of life for those living and working in Tower Hamlets.

Beneficiaries

The overall objective of SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets is to build the capacity of residents on the local estates in Tower Hamlets and create a stronger, more vibrant community that all residents feel a part of and have a sense of ownership towards. We want to help individuals take part in activities, engage in training and work, and grasp opportunities with confidence. We have separate objectives for the different groups that we work with, and we aim to build networks within and between these groups, to create a supportive environment that will sustain personal development for residents.

Public Benefit

The beneficial impact of the work that SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets delivers is demonstrated through the outcomes achieved by these following, tailored projects:

- Youth Services (ages 8-18) minimum 600 individuals registered as contacts across Tower Hamlets and City of London.
- Study Support (ages 12- 18) & Homework Club (ages 6-11) at least 150 individual children and young people have accessed the services
- Girls' Group (ages 8- 18) 125 girls and young women have attended at least one session
- Sports Sessions (ages 11-18) minimum of 200 young people have attended sports sessions such as football and multi-sports in the park.
- Exercise (women 18+) (Men 18+) 52 individuals have accessed the services for adults across three weekly sessions
- Holiday Programmes and activities (ages 5-16) 732 individual children and young people have been provided with lunch during a holiday period across Tower Hamlets and City of London
- Job Club (adults 18+) 48 adults have benefited from employment support
- E-safety Sessions (women 18+) & Chat and Chai (women 18+) minimum of 70 women have attended the sessions from all ages and backgrounds
- Stay and Play (ages 0-5) approximately 137 families of varying ethnicities, cultures and backgrounds have accessed the service
- Community Events (all ages) on average each event is attended by 400 people
- Sewing Class (ages 18+) 65 women have used the sewing sessions
- Autism/ SEND Awareness Group (ages 18+) 35 families and households have attended the SEND workshops or sessions
- Older People's Group (ages 50+) at least 40 individuals aged 50+ attend our services
- Cost of Living Food Distribution 300 households have received support from our food distribution
- ESOL/ PRE- ESOL (ages 18+) 75 attendees across the three classes including pre-ESOL
- Digital Divide Campaign (device distribution for 8-18 years) 26 devices were donated
- Training, workshops and courses (16+) 15 individuals attended training courses
- Detached Outreach and Referrals (whole community) 400 households reached through door knocking, canvassing and targeted outreach

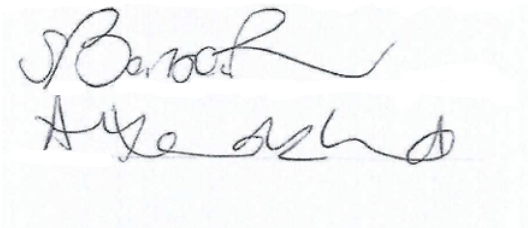
These projects help to:

- Offer opportunities to young people to engage in educational, diversionary and positive activities
- Encourage positive participation in society and community activities
- Develop the employability of job seekers and support advancement of those in work through training and support
- Facilitate the development of community networks to reduce isolation and promote community development
- Support individual/ families specific needs and disadvantages, implement inclusion and enhance their access to services and signpost accordingly
- Equip service users with skills, knowledge and information to empower them to have a voice and confidence to overcome barriers and make positive decisions
- Develop community cohesion and understanding among a diverse and culturally rich community

The ongoing success and benefit of these services is measured by their popularity and recorded attendance levels and the positive feedback from partners, service users and wider stakeholders reflects the continuous demand for increasing capacity and longevity of projects.

Charity Commission Public Benefit Guidance Compliance

We believe we have complied with our duty to have due regard to the commission’s public interest guidance wherever it is relevant to our activities.

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink on a light-colored background. The top signature is written in a cursive style and appears to be 'J. Barber'. The bottom signature is also in cursive and appears to be 'A. Yealand'.

Chair

Treasurer

Approved on: 01/12/2025

WhiteChapel Threshold Centre
80 John Fisher Street E1 8JX



0207-7020901



info@societylinks.org.uk



www.societylinks.org.uk



@society.links