



WORKING WITH YOUNG BLACK MEN: YOUTH TEAM AT HACKNEY CVS



OVERVIEW:

Hackney CVS is an infrastructure organisation supporting communities most likely to face increased demand and challenges as direct result of COVID-19. Over the last two months the youth team at the CVS have been working with young leaders in our projects to engage with them remotely. We have an innovative youth leadership approach where young people we work with are paid as part time leaders (London Living Wage) so their time and expertise are valued. Our programmes are therefore genuinely youth led and our leaders design and coordinate their own activities.

We operate three main groups which are the following:

1. **Account group** - our young people's police monitoring group that has an independent Advisory function but is very much separate of Hackney and Tower Hamlets police
2. **Politically Black** - our young black men's group that is about developing leadership and representation skills and ensuring that their voices are heard
3. **Cool Down Café** - a peer to peer mental health and wellbeing service delivered in partnership with Pembury Community Centre

ACCOUNT





**BLACK
MEN FOR
CHANGE**



THE PLUG
YOUTH INNOVATION AGENCY

WORKING WITH YOUNG BLACK PEOPLE

Hackney CVS has a strong and powerful track record of working with young black people and their communities. Much of this came out of the 2011 riots and the rebuilding of relationships and trust that needed to take place. It has also been through schemes such as Talent Match and the Moving On Up project funded by Trust for London in partnership with Black Training and Employment Group (BTEG). Our work with young black men in particular is linked to key Hackney council strategies around Improving outcomes for young black men which we helped to shape and monitor.

We host the Black Men for Change network which has recently won a contract from VRU/MOPAC to lead on a year long 4 borough public health violence reduction pilot programme which will have a focus on leadership, peer work, employment and social enterprise, mentoring and role models as well as rites of passage work. One of the projects will consist of a compilation mixtape with MCs and musicians from Hackney, Haringey, Lambeth and Waltham Forest

The Plug is a young black led design consultancy and is a team of creative problem solvers for everything youth. They were born out of our YBM work and the demand for consultants that share lived experience with the end-user.

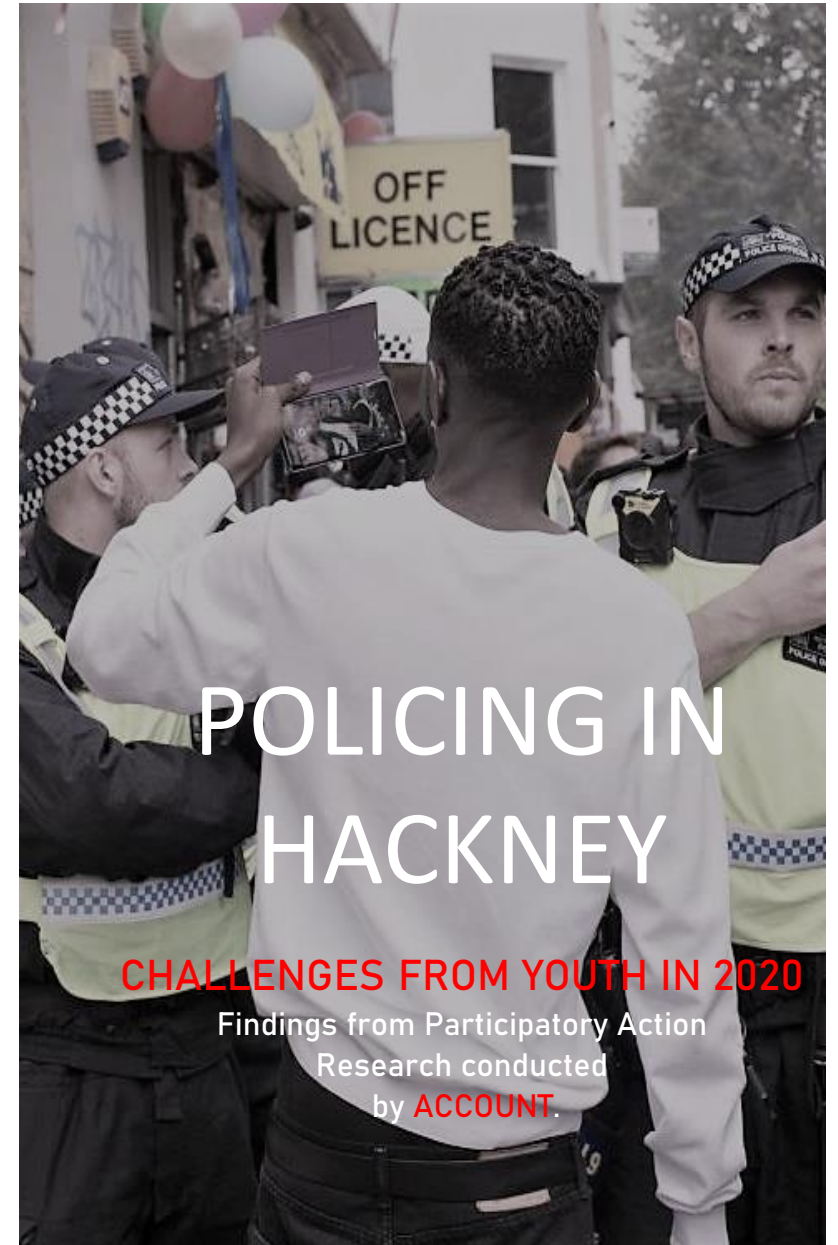


HACKNEY CVS LOCKDOWN LIVING



During the lockdown period we have been doing the following activities:

- Members of the Account group have researched the new police powers contained in the Coronavirus Act and have published initial Know Your Rights information for young people and our communities and have met with the Borough Commander and senior police officers and produced evidence of disproportionality and recommendations for the MPS and the Council.
- Our Young black men's group have been looking at the impact of Covid-19 on their communities and have conducted research around who has been impacted the most in Hackney, London and nationally. They have also been looking at issues of digital exclusion and the difficulties that they and their peers are having engaging remotely due to a lack of kit and access to Wi-Fi and data
- Making representations to the Council and the Police for young black people's voices to be heard in terms of emergency planning and through the new online neighbourhood forums that we have been instrumental in setting up.
- The Head of Youth Programmes also works with the VCS youth sector (many of them black led) and has been taking survey information that we have received on the ground and pulling together meetings with youth groups to look at what support they need during this period



POLICING IN HACKNEY

CHALLENGES FROM YOUTH IN 2020

Findings from Participatory Action
Research conducted
by **ACCOUNT**.

OUR YOUNG LEADERS

The youth leaders are working across the 3 main groups outlined and during this period as well as engaging in meetings remotely with us they are continuing to operate albeit online in three roles with the following tasks:

Organisers

- Virtual peer to peer engagement around concerns about coronavirus and how young black people feel about this epidemic
- Develop capture/survey tool
- Research on above
- Pod cast scripting

Ambassadors

- Research on how Council and authorities are responding to Coronavirus and ensure representation and voice
- Virtual networking - arrange telephone meetings with key officers and attend meetings via video conferencing - Zoom/Skype etc.
- Use this learning to promote this way of working in the group
- Front pod casts - internal/external

Messengers

- Research on what the Government's message on coronavirus is and look at response from Council and bodies such as NHS
- Develop content in response
- Brand development for both Politically Black/YBM group
- Pod cast development

OUR PHILOSOPHY

“Everything is youth led; the events, who attends, the target audience, who they want to reach, what it looks like, how it’s structured”

Moving On Up participant

