

# **Somali Community Development Trust**

## **23-24 Cheriton, Queen's Crescent, NW5**

### **Background**

The Somali Community Development Trust was established in 2002. The organisation was registered as a charity and a company limited by guarantee in 2004. The Trust aims to provide a range of comprehensive services and support for the Somali community in Camden helping to reduce isolation and provide mutual support as well as providing a place for people to meet.

The SCDT also aims to promote education, recreation, employment and social welfare benefits to the Somali community in Camden and to help provide relief for Somali people who have suffered traumatic psychological injuries, war induced injuries or who have problems with drug and alcohol abuse, through the provision of information, advice and counselling services as well as pastoral religious services.

SCDT is a Registered Charity (1111088) and a Company Limited by Guarantee which is registered in England (No. 5320249).

### **Objectives for the centre**

- To provides advice and guidance to members of Somali Community in Haverstock area and beyond;
- To offer supplementary school to children and young adults
- To create recreational activities for Somali youth to keep them off the streets;
- To offer a community hub that plays a strong role reducing crime and anti-social behaviour in the area;
- To work and establish a strong support from the local police, community, businesses and local politicians to achieve a change for better for the community;
- To provide space for local community to meet, pray, meditate.

# Activities

## Advocacy and Guidance

One day drop-in advice service is run for Somali refugees and asylum seekers in the area. An interpretation and translation service is also provided to refugees with language issues.

## Supplementary classes

The centre runs supplementary and homework support classes. Two days a week volunteers provide this service to the local children and young people who need extra help with their education. The centre also offers Somali, Arabic and Quranic classes for those children and young people who are interested learning those subjects.

## Somali Families Support Service

Healthy eating sessions are held during the regular drop in sessions. Bad diet is a real problem amongst the community. The need to promote healthy eating is high, with diabetes and high blood pressure on the increase. Other local providers are invited to attend to enable service delivery to the community to be improved.

The centre also provides signposting families to other organisations for other services such as benefit advice, counselling, etc.

## Youth Activities

The Centre runs sports activities for the youth in Haverstock area. There are football sessions that run two days a week from Haverstock School. The sessions are provided every Saturday and Sunday. Approximately 15-25 young people attend the sessions each week. There are also other youth activities including training and mentoring.