

Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

Agenda Item No. 7(f)

Partner Quarterly Update Template

Update from(delete as applicable)	Case Kent/ Voluntary Sector representative
Quarter concerned (delete as applicable)	October to December 2014
What's going on in our world	Many of the organisations involved in health and welfare are going through the process of looking for funding for next year. There was a November deadline for expressions of interest through the Kent Business Portal. There are concerns about a lack of clarity about what funding will be available and the future format of commissioned services and grants from KCC and the CCGs.
Success stories since last AHWB	<p>There are over 350 voluntary and community organisations in Ashford so we hope to use a couple of examples as a flavour of what's happening in the sector overall.</p> <p>Charing Gardening Club was awarded £9k by Awards for All for a therapeutic gardening project. They are accepting referrals through local GPs.</p> <p>A number of organisations had to leave International House recently. CASE Kent, the voluntary and community sector infrastructure body which covers Ashford provided a workshop, funded by Ashford Borough Council, to help the groups find new premises, potential partners for collaborative work and to work on their financial sustainability. One organisation is likely to close in the near future. Others have moved to the Centre for Independent Living and are very much in demand. These are all disability support groups.</p>
What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u>	CASE Kent will be working on a 'State of the Sector' report on the Voluntary Sector in the new year. This will look at how 'cost-effective' the sector is, funding issues for the sector, sustainability and engagement with statutory bodies (including health and local CCGs).
Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above	CASE Kent put in a bid to run some Dementia Awareness Road shows in Ashford. This bid was based on a successful project ran by CASE Kent as part of a previous health promotion project in 2009-2010. The bid was unsuccessful as it was pointed out that The Alzheimer's Society have a Dementia Awareness 'bus' travelling to local Tesco's across the country but the CASE Kent model intended to Dementia-specific services out to local village halls/health centres so it is still a project worth consideration as it has the potential to reach a lot of people at a relatively low-cost.

<p>Strategic challenges & risks including horizon scanning?</p>	<p>A lack of proportionality in grants and contracting arrangements with small and medium not-for-profits creates a risk that the smaller organisations will not be able to gain funding and will not be able to deliver the same impact as at present. Some risk closure as alternative sources of funding are increasingly difficult to obtain.</p> <p>Within 1 -2 years the impact of the loss of the volunteering time currently provided will be felt. Some organisations do not need funding from the statutory sector but benefit from support and infrastructure advice. The trustees of CASE Kent, have issued notice that lack of funds means they need to consider future options for the organisation, including closure. This would have a strong negative impact on smaller not for profits that rely on their help.</p>
<p>Anything else the Board needs to know</p>	<p>Greater communication and engagement with the sector is needed as many smaller organisations have found it difficult to keep up with the changes in the statutory sector and to predict the future direction.</p>
<p>Signed & dated</p>	