

Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

Partner Quarterly Update Template

Update from(delete as applicable)	Case Kent/ Voluntary Sector representative
Quarter concerned (delete as applicable)	January to March 2015
What's going on in our world	<p>Many voluntary and community sector organisations involved in health and welfare have received rollover funding for next year from KCC. 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. Rollover funding makes it hard for charities to do their business planning and much effort is therefore focused on keeping services going or planning for reducing services and redundancies.</p>
Success stories since last AHWB	<p>There are over 350 voluntary and community organisations in Ashford so here are 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 for patients of Charing Surgery. Among the aims of the project is to provide local vulnerable a chance to meet people and socialise and as a means of promoting exercise and well-being.</p> <p>Three voluntary organisations who work with disabled people had to leave International House when it closed 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. Unfortunately, one of these organisations, Voice 4 Kent will be closing due to their having no further funding. The other two organisations, ASD Ashford & Centre for Independent Living held a successful launch in January at their new office at the Old Mobility Shop in County Square Shopping Centre.</p>
What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u>	<p>CASE Kent has secured Lottery funding to produce a 'State of the Sector' report on the Voluntary Sector. 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). They have appointed a consultant, Barbara Beaton of Sandpiper Business Support, to help them produce the report. Work on this report will begin in late April.</p>

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.
Strategic challenges & risks including horizon scanning?	<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>
Anything else the Board needs to know	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. We would like to invite CCG and KCC representatives to our next Ashford VCS Network Meeting. We are prepared to set a date according to their availability in late April/May.
Signed & dated	Tracy Dighton, Michael James. 24 th March 2015.

AHWB key projects are:

- **Community Network**
Project Lead: Clinical Commissioning Group (Neil Fisher)
Project Coordinator: Sue Luff, Head of Commissioning Delivery (Email: s.luff@nhs.net)
- **Dementia Day Care**
Project Lead: Clinical Commissioning Group (Sue Luff)
Project Coordinator: Peter Marsh, KCC Dementia Officer (Email: peter.marsh@kent.gov.uk)

- **Healthy Weight Localised Action Plan**

Project Lead: KCC, Public Health

Project Coordinator: Simon Harris, Ashford Borough Council, Sports Projects Manager & Active Ashford Coordinator, Cultural Projects (Email: simon.harris@ashford.gov.uk)

- **Farrow Court**

Project Lead: Ashford Borough Council (Tracey Kerly)

Project Coordinator: Richard Robinson, Ashford Borough Council, Housing Improvement Manager, Housing Improvement (Email: Richard.robinson@ashford.gov.uk)

- **Rough Sleeping**

Project Lead: Ashford Borough Council (Housing, Tracey Kerly)

Project Coordinator: Sharon William, Ashford Borough Council, Housing Operations Manager, Housing Options (Email: sharon.williamson@ashford.gov.uk)

AHWB priorities are:

- Independent living & self management for those with long-term conditions
- Dementia
- Homelessness
- Obesity
- Falls prevention
- Sustainable development for health & wellbeing