

# Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

## Partner Quarterly Update for Case Kent/Voluntary Sector – Quarter 1: April to June 2015

<p>What's going on in our world</p>	<p>Local voluntary and community sector infrastructure body Case Kent is planning to merge with EKVAS during the next quarter. This will mean the new infrastructure body will cover the whole of East Kent.</p> <p>Many charities are working through the tendering process for the community and mental health service delivery contracts next year. Currently, potential delivery partners are meeting potential strategic partners.</p>
<p>Success stories since last AHWB</p>	<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>CASE Kent have supported eight small charities obtain funding totalling £42,500 over this period. Included in this was an Ashford Project, Wye Community Farm who will use the funding to run a Rural Skills Training project to provide training for offenders so that once they have completed their community service they will have enhanced their CV and improved their employment prospects. This will aim to reduce the chances of re-offending and improve future employment prospects.</p> <p>CASE Kent have run a series of workshops across East Kent since April bringing funders to open meetings with local organisations to make groups more aware of funding available to them. Ashford, Dover and Shepway have fewer relative applications to Funders like the Big Lottery than other areas of the country so we are working with these funders to redress this. CASE Kent are now working on Funding bids with 9 of those groups that attended potentially with more to follow.</p>
<p>What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u></p>	<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 began in May. We plan to present this information at the October Board meeting.</p>
<p>Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above</p>	
<p>Strategic challenges &amp; risks including horizon</p>	<p>Michael attended one of the Healthwatch events, in Thanet as he couldn't make the Ashford one. This was concerned with</p>

<p>scanning?</p>	<p>engaging/consulting with health-related organisations around future changes to East Kent hospitals. It was quite a low turn out and apparently this was a pattern across the county. I was told I was one of the few representatives attending from the voluntary sector.</p> <p>One of the issues discussed was the uncertainty over the future of the Hospital Care Navigators who had been given a few months extended funding despite having a really positive impact since they've been in post since Summer. There was a feeling that relatively small projects like these would really benefit from some longer term funding (meaning 2-3 years not 5-10) .</p>
<p>Anything else the Board needs to know</p>	<p>The next sector network meeting will take place in early September. This will allow us to engage more of the sector before the Board meeting in October.</p>
<p>Signed &amp; dated</p>	<p>Tracy Dighton, Michael James. 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015.</p>