



Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board

Charlie Fox, CEO Red Zebra Community Solutions

19th October, 2015

“Charities play a vital role in improving our society and make a huge contribution to the UK economy. They are the biggest builders of social capital, and provide crucial support to people and communities across the country, often those that are hardest to reach.”

(A Financial Sustainability Review; NCVO; July 2015)

About Red Zebra Community Solutions

Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee

- Merger
- Infrastructure
- Council for Voluntary Service
- Volunteer Centre
- Community Empowerment

Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Sector

The VCSE in Ashford

- State of the Sector Report
- Befriending Services – CARM, Helen Mattock
- Dementia Support – Crossroads Care
- Cara Navigator – Ashford Volunteer Centre

State of the Sector Report

VOICE Consortium

- VOICE brings together four local volunteer centres: Ashford, Dover, Shepway & Thanet plus Red Zebra Community Solutions. The Volunteer Centres have:
- Over 3000 volunteering contacts
- Actively support over a 1000 volunteers

- In the past year RED Zebra Community Solutions:
- Has supported over 300 VCSE's on a 1-to-1 basis
- Has Supported VCSE's to raise in excess of £1.2m

Ashford Volunteer Centre

- Volunteer Contacts - 772
- Volunteers actively supported - 137

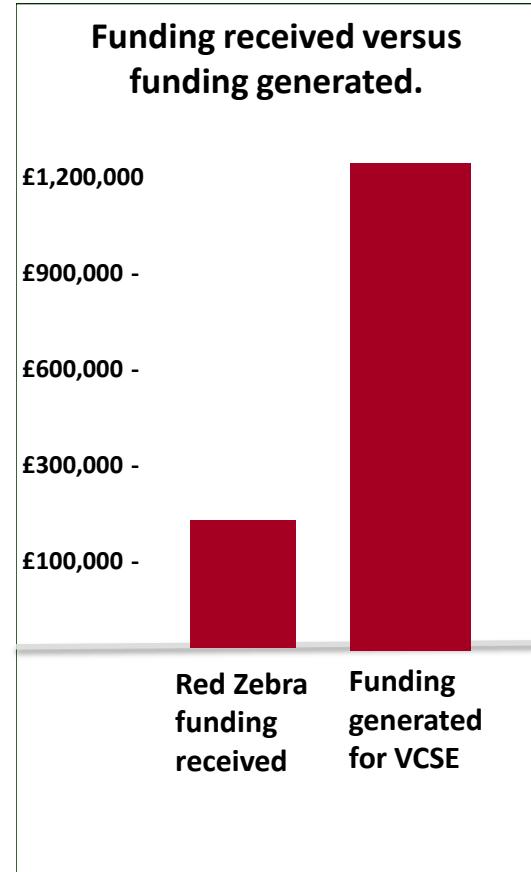
Red Zebra Community Solutions

- Has Supported Ashford VCSE's to raise in excess of £175,000

Income generated by Red Zebra 2014-15



Red Zebra have made a return on investment of over £9 for every £1 of KCC funding “invested”



Challenges

- Reduction in Funding
- The sector workforce has grown by 24% since 1997, compared to 9% in the private sector and 16% in the public sector
- There are 160,000 charities in the UK 41% (or 68,000) have an income below **£10k** (Report by nfp Synergy, September 2015) outlines the scope and financial impact of the charity sector nationally, and these figures are representative of the Kent landscape.
- These smaller organisations provide vital local services but often lack the resources to identify funding and complete applications
- Smaller charities will close
- Local services will be lost

Red Zebra Community Solutions

Plays a vital role, facilitating increased effectiveness of frontline VCSEs and improving their resilience

Red Zebra provides:

- One-to-one support - 'free at point of delivery'
- Networking opportunities
- Fundraising support
- Team building
- E-bulletins
- Workshops
- Liaison with statutory agencies
- Volunteer brokerage
- Support for Volunteer-Involving-Organisations (VIOs)

Recommendations

- Explore ways to engage meaningfully, with the VCSE as an equal partner and to develop joint initiatives to leverage in additional, external funding not accessible to the statutory sector
- Recognise the social and economic value of community based services that address social isolation, improve independence and reduce costs to statutory services
- Create an a 'resilience' funding to support smaller organisations
- Change how VCSEs are funded; longer term funding that enables organisations to make strategic decisions and to respond to statutory sector objectives
- Develop a social prescribing scheme for Ashford
- Work with the VCSE to better understand economic savings to the system



Thank you

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Building stronger communities