

Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board (AHWB)

Partner Quarterly Update for the Voluntary Sector – Quarter 2: July to September 2016

What's going on in our world	KCC have put infrastructure/volunteering services out to tender for one contract rather than the current arrangement for multiple contracts for specific districts. Red Zebra have submitted a tender and the decision on who gets the contract will be announced in October. This will impact on voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) support services across Kent.
Success stories since last AHWB	<p>The Centre for Independent Living in Kent (CILK) have received funding from Healthwatch to set up and run a county-wide disability forum. This will enable people who have a physical disability to have a say in how services are run or can be improved when things are not working well. The launch event of Kent Physical Disability Forum was in Maidstone on 5th October.</p> <p>Wye Community Farm obtained £9k funding from Big Lottery Awards for All to run their Rural Skills Training for ex-offenders for a second year. The first year saw several attendees find a pathway back into employment after taking part in this project in the course of doing their community payback.</p> <p>Skillnet Group have been awarded funding by Youth Music to deliver the 'Composed: Musicians Development Programme' to support aspiring young musicians with learning difficulties, disabilities and/or autism. The project is also open to young musicians who face other challenging circumstances in life such as mental health difficulties and homelessness.</p>
What we are focusing on for the next quarter <u>specific to the key projects</u>	Exploring ways to encourage more Ashford VCSE organisations running services that relate to priorities to feed into the Health & Wellbeing Board agenda.
Anything else relevant to AHWB priorities NOT mentioned above	
Strategic challenges & risks including horizon scanning?	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.
Anything else the Board needs to know	Caroline Harris resigned as the VCSE board representative in August and Charlie Fox, Red Zebra's CEO was confirmed as her

	<p>successor. Board chair Navin Kumta and vice-chair Brad Bradford both confirmed their support for this appointment.</p> <p>Red Zebra are planning to hold a VCSE network meeting in November that explores the changes in health & social care in Kent and how and why the sector can and should engage. The meeting will probably take place at the Business Point, Sevington, Ashford and the key speaker will be Rachel Jones from East Kent Strategy Board/East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust. Anyone who would like more information or wishes to attend should contact michaeljames@redzebra.org.uk</p>
Signed & dated	Charlie Fox October 7 th 2016