



COMMUNITY ACTION SOUTH EAST

Helping charities get it right



Impact Report

2014





Message from Jan Perfect CEO CASE Kent

I joined the charity sector 12 years ago after 16 years in the public sector. What a difference! A sector which can not only see the need but go and do something about it. A sector which is not driven by process but driven by results.

I have learnt a lot in the last 12 years. The best known national charity brands may get the most funding, yet often the best service at a very local level comes from a small group which has virtually no public profile and very few funds. So how do these groups survive and cope with the ever challenging environment of growing legislative requirement, changes in funding streams etc?

This is where our charity, and others like us, come in. We exist purely to serve the needs of our members, the majority of whom are smaller charities or groups of local people wanting to set themselves up to help serve a need they have identified in their locality. We do not run services ourselves, we help those who run the

services. We do this in a variety of ways whether it is one-to-one advice, training courses, information bulletins and building partnership working.

In today's world, it is not enough to know you make a difference, you need to show how you make the difference.

This is our first attempt at truly measuring the impact of what we do rather than just giving numbers. This report shows:

CASE Kent has generated 1000% return on every £1 invested by their funders.

CASE Kent has helped bring in at least £1m extra funding to our sector.

81% of those receiving our information bulletins rely on us for information.

88% of people attending our training increase their skills.

Introduction

I hope you agree that the contents of this report show that CASE Kent not only gives good value for money but good value to our members.

Let's not forget the voluntary and community sector contributes £273 million to the Kent economy.

Jan Perfect

“Voluntary and Community groups across South and East Kent are vibrant, responsive and resilient.

There's so much to be proud of”

Jan Perfect CEO CASE Kent

CASE COMMUNITY ACTION SOUTH EAST
KENT *Helping charities get it right*

Established in 1987 CASE Kent exists to provide specialist expertise, information and support to develop the skills local people need to run successful not-for-profit organisations.

We currently support 700 organisations who in turn support thousands of people across the districts of :

***Ashford
Dover
Shepway
Thanet***

CASE Kent has a strong track record for helping groups find funding, for making effective use of resources, for ensuring that people working in the sector run their organisations effectively, for bringing groups together to speak in one Voice and for representing the sector to ensure that their voice is heard.

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The voluntary sector's contribution to the economy in England and Wales

£11.8 billion

The Voluntary Sector's GVA (gross value added)

2011/12

Source National Council for Voluntary Organisations

£23.9 billion

The estimated value of the output of volunteers

2012/13

Source Office for National Statistics



One to One support

The voluntary sector within Kent

In 2012* the added value of the output of the voluntary sector in Kent was £273 million.

Source: Business Intelligence Unit, Kent County Council.

**The latest year for which figures are available.*



Dragon's Den Funding Event



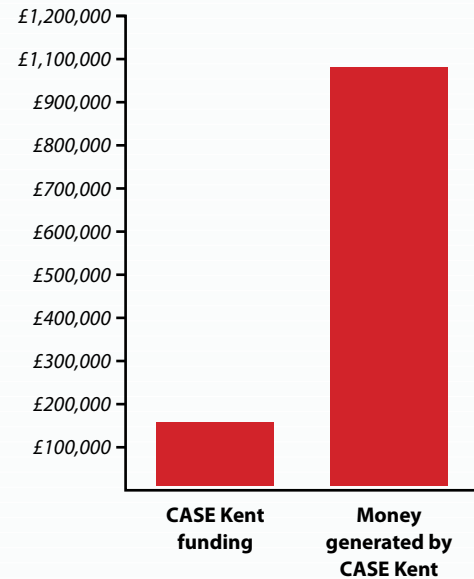
Income generated by CASE Kent during 2013/2014

Investment versus growth.

For every £1 investment CASE Kent received from its funders it turned it into £10



Funding received versus funding generated.



Funding



Trevor Skelton, Community Projects Advisor CASE Kent and Alan Bonner, Tilmanstone Ravens Cricket and Sports Club

"Clubs like ours rely on help from grant providers when purchasing larger pieces of equipment or when attempting to improve our facilities. Over a number of years, Trevor at CASE Kent has been a great support to us, helping to identify schemes that suit us and also by acting as our critical friend when making applications for funding."

Alan Bonner, Tilmanstone Ravens Cricket and Sports Club

CASE Kent received £119,000 for the year from our main funder Kent County Council. In turn CASE raised over £1 million for the voluntary and community sector supporting thousands of people throughout the community.

For every £1 CASE Kent received from its investor it generated £10.

That's a massive 1000% return.

"Support from CASE Kent has enabled us to engage with and locate small groups that otherwise may be missed. My role as a Heritage Lottery Fund development officer is much more effective as a result saving time and money".

Graeme McKirdy Development Officer, South East England Heritage Lottery Fund

Training



Funding Workshop

"The CASE Kent targeted funding surgeries are the best way of being able to meet and talk to potential grant applicants before they embark on the process of applying. It enables us to better understand potential applicants"

Emma Tregear, South East and London Grants Manager

88% of people attending our training told us they were better able to complete funding applications as a result of their learning.

For instance Thanet GAP Project and 4us2 attended a Lloyds Foundation workshop in June and as a result were....

...awarded £26,000 and £28,800 respectively.

"Heather from CASE Kent organised a workshop with Lloyds Bank Foundation. We went through it all together. It came up trumps and we received £28,800 to help children with disabilities and their families have some fun activities for this summer."

Andrea Bennett, Manager 4us2

Staying informed



Sue Sawyer, Ashford Volunteer Centre

“Thanks to a timely news alert from CASE Kent we gained some great new office furniture.”

Sue Sawyer, Ashford Volunteer Centre

81% of our newsletter and e bulletin recipients tell us they rely on us to keep them up to date with information about funding and issues that affect our sector.

CASE Kent provides information on a broad range of issues including fundraising, governance, quality and policy.

It aims to ensure it is both timely and relevant.

Sue Sawyer from Ashford Volunteer Centre responded to an article she read in our newsletter about free furniture for charities. As a result she has been able to revamp her conference room with new furniture.



Representation



Selecting representatives for the Shepway Health and Wellbeing Board

CASE Kent exists to champion, celebrate and strengthen the sector. We want to make sure that government both national and local knows the intrinsic value of the sector.

To this end we represented over 700 organisations across South and East Kent at county wide meetings during the year.

CASE Kent supports the voluntary sector representatives on three of the five voluntary sector wellbeing boards.

“Ashford Counselling Service has been kept up to date about changes in the statutory sector. As a result we felt more confident about delivering a service for mums with post natal depression in partnership with the health visitors at Kent County Councils Bluebell Children’s Centre”.

Tracy Dighton, Manager Ashford Counselling Service

Bringing Groups together



CASE Kent has a reputation built up over 27 years of providing networks and forums at which local voluntary and community organisations speak to each other.

During the year our Network Officer, Michael James brought over 500 people together to share good practice and knowledge and to encourage partnerships and effective working relationships.

“Partnership links have been strengthened through meeting and chatting with people who until CASE Kent network meetings were names only”

St Saviours Community Centre

“With partners we met at CASE Kent network meetings we have established a consortium to share information and work jointly on delivery of children’s services.”

Aylesham Neighbourhood Project (now Bechange)

“I find they are often a catalyst for change”

Michael James comments.

“We have started a relationship with several agencies and organisations since becoming aware of them but this wouldn’t have happened without CASE Kent.”

Kent Council on Addiction



Volunteering



There are an estimated 15.2 million people volunteering at least once a month in England and Wales. The financial value that volunteers provide in South and East Kent is also worth millions. The impact they have on society is without measure.

CASE Kent together with Ashford, Dover, Shepway and Thanet Volunteer Centres formed a collaborative working group known as VOICE (Voluntary Organisations involved in Community Engagement). The consortium aims to benefit volunteers and their beneficiaries across South East Kent.



A random snapshot of 32 organisations in Kent discovered their volunteers had together worked 212,038 hours during the year which equates to 8834 days or 1262 weeks or 24 years!



How we have helped



“When I was 16 I became pregnant and I really wanted to breast feed. I was very young and it was hard and I would have given up but my midwife referred me to this group. They were just lovely, helpful, supportive mums who knew what it felt like to feel like you were the only one struggling. I did not look back, I was able to breast feed my first child for over a year and now five years later I am still here, able to support other mums and breast feeding my second child”

Deal Breastfeeding Support Group was on the brink of closing when NHS funding ceased , but the mums wanted it to continue. “In order to set up as a charity, we needed expert advice and turned to Trevor at CASE Kent”, said Candice Roberts one of the organizers.

As a result of Trevor’s invaluable help we are now fully operational as a charity and are able to provide various facilities for mums and their families .

These range from simply a comfortable, safe, warm place to feed their baby, to training with the Association of Breastfeeding Mothers, also taking part in voluntary and community projects.

None of this would have been possible without the fantastic help and guidance provided by Trevor Skelton at CASE Kent.



Helping charities make a difference



CASE Kent helped Samphire, a registered charity that supports detainees at the Dover Immigration Removal Centre, to secure a Big Lottery grant of £129,792.

“It was rewarding having reviewed several drafts of their bid to hear that they had been successful” Trevor commented. The grant enabled Samphire to expand their visiting work to include ex-detainees. “We are currently supporting a man from Lebanon. He is a highly trained and experienced accountant and is bilingual. He had been to the UK for work purposes several times in the past, so when he faced persecution in Lebanon, coming here to claim asylum was an obvious choice. Unfortunately his asylum claim was rejected. Like all asylum-seekers, he is not permitted to work. His solicitor is working to gather more evidence to make a fresh claim for asylum.

“Support from CASE Kent has saved us time and money and enabled us to thrive. It has made all the difference”

Marianela Clayton, Samphire

“In the meantime we have been able to find him shelter as he is not entitled to any help with housing and provide him with much needed emotional support”

Conclusion

Every day across Kent people are giving their time, energy and commitment. The power of the voluntary sector in the county is immense with thousands of people contributing volunteer hours to causes they feel passionate about. The sector is vibrant, diverse, innovative and resilient and has a vital part to play in the decisions about its customers and the development of local policies and services.

An action driven and thriving and robust voluntary sector helps improve the world.

CASE Kent's mission is to ensure that this continues in the years ahead.



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