

Step Change Fund

Helping Voluntary Organisations Achieve Increased Impact

AIMS

The Step Change Fund aims to build a sustainable source of funding that will award large grants payable over up to three years, to enable established community and voluntary sector organisations in Surrey to achieve transformational change in the scope and/or scale of services they provide.

The Fund will apply strategic philanthropy and work with organisations already known to and supported by the Community Foundation for Surrey. In this way it will build on proven success and help selected local voluntary organisations to achieve greater impact for local communities, supporting them to grow and develop, to overcome barriers, to pursue aspirations and take new opportunities.

Examples of projects which might be supported include the costs of expanding an existing successful initiative, piloting a new programme of activity; expert consultancy to guide and support future developments or organisational changes; and sharing best practice and learning between organisations across the county.

HOW WILL THE FUND OPERATE?

The Fund is established within the Community Foundation for Surrey – an independent charitable trust which works with local Surrey Donors and awards grants across the county.

Donors can be as actively involved as they wish in making decisions about the grants awarded as part of a donor circle, with the support and experience of the Foundation.

Assessed applications will be presented to the donor circle and donors will be able to see the impact and benefit of their donations and visit the projects which have been supported.

Applicant organisations will develop realistic, convincing and well supported business cases. A panel of volunteer advisors will then support successful organisations for the duration of the award period.

MEETING A PROVEN NEED

The recent RAISE Challenge Fund, a one year project, evaluated the idea of funding transformational change programmes in selected South East voluntary organisations. Analysis of the outcomes confirmed the potential for such strategic development funding, but identified the need to provide longer term funding combined with on-going contact and support from the funder, ideally for at least two or three years, to carefully selected organisations.



HOW TO BECOME A FOUNDING DONOR

The Fund will be established from a number of pooled donations from Donors wishing to provide support.

In order to be a Founding Donor we are seeking a commitment of £10,000* or more per year, for a minimum of three years. A further £2,500 can be claimed as Gift Aid per year and added to the Fund.

As the Fund develops, consideration will also be given to building a long-term Fund.

*The cost of making a £10,000 donation to the Fund for a higher rate tax payer is £7,500.

BENEFITS OF BECOMING A FOUNDING DONOR

The Fund will support a range of community and voluntary groups making a difference to people's lives in the local area. The key benefits include:

SIMPLE AND STRAIGHTFORWARD

With the Community Foundation managing all of the grant administration process, Donors are able to be fully involved in the experience, without any of the burden.

FOCUSED AND EFFECTIVE

The Foundation's local knowledge and understanding, due diligence and evaluation of the impact and benefit of grants will ensure donations are put to the best possible use.

LONG-TERM

By supporting voluntary organisations to develop and strengthen, the Fund will provide long-term benefit for the local communities the organisations serve. Building an endowed Fund will also mean that grants can continue to be awarded to support Surrey's voluntary sector in perpetuity.

MAXIMUM INVOLVEMENT

Donors will have the opportunity to be involved in the major decision making such as the assigning of the grant and advising the grant recipients. For those who choose, the option to sit on the panel allows Donors to measure the impact their money is having first-hand.

**To find out more please contact the
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