

SUFFOLK

PRO

HELP

**CONNECTING
BUSINESSES +
COMMUNITIES**



“We have been able to benefit greatly from the very valuable professional assistance of Suffolk ProHelp since we quite simply do not have the financial resources to be able to afford to pay for it”.
(Boxford Playing Fields)

“Suffolk Pro Help helped us achieve our goal by putting us in touch with professionals who have contributed their services and knowledge, thus enabling us to fulfill our ambitious project”
(Erasmus Foundation)

IMPACT REPORT APRIL - JUNE 2018

IMPACT STATISTICS

Connecting business and
communities

18 REQUESTS FOR PROHELP THIS QUARTER

12 SCHEMES RECEIVED SUPPORT

APPROXIMATELY £10,000 WORTH OF

SUPPORT GIVEN

APPROXIMATELY 200 HOURS OF

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

SUPPORT FOR ELMSETT & ALDHAM VH
IPSWICH ARTS CENTRE
QUAY THEATRE, SUDBURY
MID SUFFOLK HOPS
THE BEFRIENDING SCHEME
IPSWICH OUTREACH BUS
SOUTHWOLD REGENERATION PROJECT
DEBEN PENINSULA
ADVENTURES OFFSHORE
NEW LIFE CHURCH
SUFFOLK REFUGEE SUPPORT
CHEDBURGH, CHEVINGTON, DEPDEN & REDE. COMMUNITY
COUNCIL /ERSKINE CENTRE
SAXMUNDHAM ARTS
RINGSFIELD
STOWMARKET OPPORTUNITY GROUP
STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL

CASE STUDIES

SUFFOLK PROHELP



QUAY THEATRE SUDBURY

This vibrant and well-loved community asset sought assistance from Suffolk ProHelp to help envisage a redesign and refurbish of their front of house space and exterior in order to seek planning permission and funding. As a Grade II listed building careful revisioning of the space was required to put forward to planners and funders. KLH Architects are providing this valuable expertise. Castons are providing quantity surveying support which is vital for funding applications.

JETTY LANE

This is an exciting new project to develop a youth, community and arts venue in Woodbridge. Having had designs drawn up and reached the pre-planning stage Suffolk ProHelp were approached to assist with accountancy and financial expertise to demonstrate that the centre, once built, will be self sustaining, to assist with projecting running costs and setting up accounts. As a start up with minimal funds Suffolk ProHelp stepped in to support with expertise from Larking Gowen Chartered Accountants.

Original concept by Mark Julian. Picture: SCOTT MORTIMER/
CONFABRICOR.



HIGHLIGHTS

SPRINGING INTO ACTION

As we approach our first year anniversary of the relaunched Suffolk ProHelp with the benefit of Transformation Challenge Award funding we have seen an increase in knowledge and presence of the scheme represented in the rise in the number of requests following rebranding, new marketing materials, website and easy online application process.

We have taken on some new members following an increase in the number of requests for support in architectural support.

Suffolk ProHelp is providing input with some new, exciting and ambitious projects in the county including the Jetty Lane Project developing a youth and arts centre in Woodbridge, Southwold and Waveney Regeneration Project who are redeveloping the old Southwold District Hospital to form a community hub. And working across the border with Norfolk ProHelp on an inspirational project with Ringsfield Hall to for the redevelopment of a Victorian glass house where a range of professionals are involved.



Smaller projects have also received valuable professional assistance. We have provided legal assistance to Ipswich Outreach Bus, Stowupland Village Hall and The Befriending Scheme; marketing and branding support to Deben Peninsula CIC, Adventures Offshore and Oak Tree Low Carbon Farm. And invaluable accountancy support to Saxmundham Arts Station. Architectural input is frequently requested and we have supported New Life Church, Mid Suffolk HOPS and Ipswich Arts Centre as well as some of the other projects mentioned elsewhere.

Partnerships

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP IS INTRINSIC TO PROHELP

HELPING THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR THRIVE



LEARNING LUNCHES, PODCASTS AND MASTERCLASSES

INNOVATIVE WAYS TO SHARE EXPERTISE

Learning Lunches are a new initiative to deploy the skills, expertise and knowledge of Suffolk ProHelp members to the wider community. An opportunity to network over lunch followed by a taster seminar in topics such as marketing and PR, and human resource and governance issues.

Masterclasses will potentially follow on the back of Learning Lunches to provide a more in-depth look at relevant issues from professionals often hosted at the business own venues. Four lunches and masterclasses are in the planning for later this year involving Suffolk ProHelp members in their delivery.

Suffolk ProHelp members have recorded a number of audio bursts to describe their work which have been aired at the latest Employer Supported Volunteer Conference and on CAS website. This not only provides an introduction to what we do but may potentially encourage other members to come forward.

MORE REACH

WORKING WITH THE SECTOR IN WIDER INITIATIVES



DARYL GRIFFITHS

**BURNETT BARKER
SOLICITORS**

'An excellent year of collaboration'

Daryl Griffiths, Burnett Barker Solicitors

Like many Suffolk ProHelp members Burnett Barker became members of CAS and heard about wider initiatives and ways to get involved. As a result they have become engaged in a range of projects:

- Assisting community organisations through the Suffolk ProHelp scheme
- Promoting CAS' "Young Trustees" program to young people and students
- Attending the recent Employer Volunteering Conference
- Agreeing to partner with CAS to create an Employer Supported Volunteering toolkit to help businesses get their ESV scheme up and running more easily
- Arranging to sponsor "Meet Up Mondays" (probably x4) held in our local areas – through CAS
- Joining the New Anglia LEP Growing Business Fund panel – introduced through CAS.

Daryl says "All-in-all an excellent year of collaboration, benefiting our local community as well as us as a business and people. As a small business we can do little things that make an immediate difference. They don't take much time or money (both of which are in short supply in a smaller business), just a little thought and engagement. Our staff love it too"

OVERVIEW

SHARING EXPERTISE



Suffolk ProHelp is a countywide network of businesses who provide professional and strategic support free of charge to voluntary and community groups. This shared time, passion and commitment helps create thriving, resilient and sustainable communities.

— Supporting communities

Suffolk ProHelp was established in June 2001 and was previously run by Business in the Community (BITC). It is now co-ordinated by Community Action Suffolk and funded through the Transformation Challenge Award, made possible by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group. The Suffolk ProHelp business network includes solicitors, accountants, architects, surveyors, property consultants, marketing and public relations.

— A wide range of expertise

"Businesses commit to undertake one-off projects which may include activities such as feasibility studies, structural surveys, marketing strategies, legal and accountancy advice and property valuations. The only difference is that the community client is not charged for the work undertaken. Clear eligibility criteria are applied to make sure that this valuable expertise is directed to voluntary and community sector organisations who are most in need and would most benefit.

— Focused input



OUR AIM

- To provide support to **90** organisations 2017- 2019
- To distribute **£250,000** worth of expertise in kind

STATISTICS TO DATE



32
projects
matched



£37 K
worth of
support



37
professional
members

