

CONNECTING BUSINESSES + COMMUNITIES

SUFFOLK
PRO
HELP



"We secured the tenancy [to a retail outlet] which we would not have done any other way. This will increase our income generation capacity and enable us to reach more vulnerable adults and increase the opportunities and choices we can offer them. Prohelp enabled us to concentrate on spending on service delivery rather than corporate costs. Opening a third social enterprise with the help of Prohelp has spread this offer from Ipswich into Felixstowe and the wider east of Suffolk." Emmaus Suffolk

IMPACT STATISTICS

Connecting business and
communities

6 NEW REQUESTS FOR PROHELP THIS QUARTER

4 SCHEMES RECEIVED SUPPORT

APPROXIMATELY £12,000 WORTH OF SUPPORT GIVEN

APPROXIMATELY 250 HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL
SUPPORT

NEW AND ONGOING SUPPORT FOR:
CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE
IPSWICH ARTS CENTRE
LIN BERWICK TRUST
STOWMARKET OPPORUTNITY GROUP
ELMSETT & ALDHAM VH
SOUTHWOLD REGENERATION PROJECT
DEBEN PENINSULA
ADVENTURES OFFSHORE
NEW LIFE CHURCH
RINGSFIELD
STOWMARKET OPPORTUNITY GROUP
STOWUPLAND VILLAGE HALL
GECKO THEATRE
EMMAUS SUFFOLK
UFFFORD CHARITIES
RED GABLES
REDGRAVE COMMUNITY SHOP
OLD NEWTON VILLAGE HALL
1ST MENDLESHAM SCOUTS

CASE STUDIES

SUFFOLK PROHELP

EMMAUS SUFFOLK



Emmaus needed to strengthen the social enterprise model by stimulating expansion through securing an additional premises to enable more vulnerable individuals to participate in a work framework in their own locality. With the support of Birketts through Suffolk ProHelp the charity was able to secure an assignment of two tenancies in Felixstowe. These sites are already open as a new retail outlet for the charity and offering volunteer opportunities to vulnerable adults based in Felixstowe. They have already attracted 5 new people in 3 weeks of trading. The whole process took 3 months from proposal to signing the assignments.

BOXFORD PLAYING FIELDS

Whitworth surveyors visited the sports pavilion to inspect the property prior to preparing a report on its condition and their report formed the basis of work to rectify the wants of repair and provide them with a focus and collateral for their fund raising efforts. FennWright Commercial Surveyors conducted an inspection and survey of the property together with the associated playing fields with a view to providing us with a market valuation. This along with some input from Prettys solicitors, enabled them to complete the registration of their small charity with the Charity Commission and correctly account for our financial and material assets.



"Both of these pieces of work have been essential in enabling us to start on projects to refurbish the condition of our pavilion and to address shortcomings in our governance and compliance. We could not have been able to benefit from the very valuable professional assistance which both FennWright and Whitworth's have provided without the assistance of Suffolk ProHelp "

HIGHLIGHTS

THIS QUARTER

Although the number of requests have fallen somewhat over the last two quarters they are now becoming more complex and usually require the input of two or more professionals and take longer to come to completion.

We have also done some considerable outreach work to promote Suffolk ProHelp through presentations at East Suffolk Business Festival the Ipswich Funding Fair and the annual Village Halls conference as well as press articles and highlights in Community Action Suffolk's external newsletter.

During this time some members have stood down due to other commitments while we continue to recruit new members such as Paul Weston highly regarded architect.

We have 35 members across the profession have supported 43 projects and provided approximately £70,000 worth of expertise since our relaunch in June 2017.



Suffolk ProHelp has
provided
approximately
£70,000 worth of
expertise to date
since its relaunch in
June 2017



MORE REACH

DELIVERING PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Building financial resilience

Giles Kerkham Charities and Education Director at Larking Gowen LLP, Chartered Accountants joined us in Lowestoft where thirteen voluntary organisations explored how well-crafted reserves policy gives a buffer and facilitates development and considered the qualities of management accounting; a crucial tool for trustee decision making and give early warning of trouble ahead.

Giles tailored the presentation to the audience present and participants found it very valuable.

"Well informed speaker who dealt with real situations"



GILES KERKHAM

LARKING GOWEN

Employing staff for the first time

Lucy Pakes from Ashtons Legal is a CIPD-qualified HR professional with many years' experience of advising businesses on employment law and HR best practice. Small charities find employing staff for the first time a daunting prospect. Lucy gave a comprehensive presentation on checks to carry out before people start, National Minimum Wage and the Living Wage, The basics of auto-enrolment for pensions, procedures for new joiner paperwork and the do's and don'ts of probationary periods.

"Excellent and knowledgeable with a lot of information presented in a short time"



LUCY PAKES

ASHTONS LEGAL



LOOKING AHEAD

FUTURE FUNDING

From the very beginning of the relaunched Suffolk ProHelp we knew that we had only two years of grant funding from the Transformation Challenge Award. We set up a funding sub-group at the start to look at future funding and sustainability.

With only 6 months left of this funding we are looking at three options for going forward: further grant funding, sponsorship and a small administration fee.

Members have approved a small administration fee which will come into effect from June 2019. Grant funding is being identified and applied for and approaches are being made to key businesses in Suffolk to explore the potential for sponsorship.

We have closely monitored our return in investment and wider social impact so can demonstrate to future funders and sponsors the benefit of their support.

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



43
projects
matched



£70 K
worth of
support



35
professional
members

