

SUFFOLK PROHELP IMPACT REPORT

QUARTER 2 2020: JULY - SEPTEMBER



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.

SUFFOLK PROHELP

IMPACT STATISTICS

We record quantitative information on organisations making inquiries, those who applied, those supported and the hours and cost equivalent of professional time given.

12

INITIAL ENQUIRIES
THIS QUARTER

10

APPLICATIONS FOR
SUPPORT THIS QUARTER

10

ORGANISATIONS MATCHED
WITH PROFESSIONALS
THIS QUARTER

20

TOTAL NUMBER
ORGANISATIONS HELPED
SINCE APRIL 2020

£10K

ESTIMATED FINANCIAL
EQUIVALENTSUPPORT
THIS QUARTER* ★

200

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL
HOURS SINCE APRIL 2020

ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTED

RINGSHALL VILLAGE HALL

WICKHAM BROOK MEMORIAL
CENTRE

OUSDEN VILLAGE HALL

LEISTON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

CLOPTON VILLAGE HALL

DISABILITY ADVICE SERVICE EAST
SUFFOLK

LOFTY HEIGHTS

MID SUFFOLK AXIS

SUMMERHILL CIC

JETTY LANE



Hours and financial equivalent are estimated as audits are conducted at the end of each quarter and can take several weeks for data to come back.

SHARING EXPERTISE IN RESPONSE TO COVID

Suffolk ProHelp continues to respond to the need for online learning and expertise by running webinars, seminars and contributing to online events from Community Action Suffolk.

This quarter we ran a webinar to help VCSE organisations explore which digital platform was right for their business with Lorna Rose Training providing the professional expertise.

In September ProHelp members Andrew Laws Associates and Giles Kerkham from MHA Larking Gowen contributed to the Community Action Suffolk Fundraising 2020 virtual conference.

Giles is also planning a series of online interactive seminars for the autumn entitled Focusing on the Future looking at: Practical Steps to come back from lockdown; Building back reserves and Risk Management.



HIGHLIGHTS

THIS QUARTER

Suffolk ProHelp continues to respond to the the impact of Covid 19. While still responding to our usual requests for support we have been supplementing these with seminars and webinars on essential issues to support the sector. Community Action Suffolk's State of the Sector monthly reports helps us identify key issues where our expertise could be of most use.

We have proactively reached out to the arts sector in particular as we know that many arts organisations are in jeopardy.

We took the opportunity over summer to conduct a business impact survey. We regularly survey organisations we help to gather an understanding of the social impact we make and these are reported on our website and in our quarterly reports. The business impact survey asked our professional member firms to reflect on how being part of Suffolk ProHelp has positively impacted on their business.

An example of this positive impact is the re-purposing of two architecture firms involved in Suffolk ProHelp who have both become social enterprises: EDRM and Affect Community Architecture. You can read more about them in our Business Impact Report.



We have reflected on our own company's values and this inspired us to want to re-frame the way that we operate and run our own business in the future. As a result of the opportunities created through Suffolk ProHelp projects, and the exposure to different models of working where social values are placed ahead of profit, EDRM have recently become a social enterprise and is now a certified member of SEUK.

EDRM Architects

NEW MEMBERS

DELIVERING PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Many people came forward to volunteer and share their skills as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and this was also true of Suffolk ProHelp. This quarter saw us taking on more new members to support our work in providing professional expertise to the voluntary sector.

We welcome



ADAM BROWN

BRIX BRAND & CREATIVE



BEVERLEY GEDGE

SKYBRIDGE RECRUITMENT



NICK GARNETT

SEARCH CLARITY

Brix Brand & Creative approached Community Action Suffolk with an opportunity for a free brand development package to a small charity in the UK. Adam Brown, BRIX Lead Designer said: "We know it's been a difficult time for the sector we serve, so we've been putting our heads together to think about how we can practically help organisations who are struggling as a result of the virus. This will help smaller organisations gain increased confidence in the direction of their charity and will improve the way their organisation communicates, which in turn should increase interest from funders and open new doors for them." Following this initiative they joined Suffolk ProHelp recognising that we created further opportunities to support charities.

Two new members: Search Clarity (digital SEO specialists) and Skybridge recruitment and coaching consultants were recommended to us by existing members. This kind of networking really helps us broaden our network and our reach bringing on board new skills and expertise.

We are delighted to welcome all three business to Suffolk ProHelp

CASE STUDY

LEISTON COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Leiston CLT formed in 2019 following a Neighbourhood Plan and a scoping report commissioned by the Town Council and its partners. These reports recognised that Leiston would benefit significantly from town centre redevelopment and reinforced the need for a mix of uses (residential, retail and community) that could serve to draw more people into the town centre, therefore helping to revitalise it.

Leiston CLT's aims are ambitious. They aim to create a sustainable and economically vibrant town centre; one that is well planned and designed to meet the current and future needs of Leiston and its people. The specific objectives of the CLT include:

- The provision of affordable homes.
- The creation of a vibrant social, civic and commercial centre for Leiston.
- Using high quality planning to link the town centre to the rest of the town.
- Improving road safety in the town.
- Making Leiston an attractive destination with positive impact on the local economy.

Leiston CLT recognises that its success will depend on building strong, mutually beneficial partnerships with the public and private sectors, and maintaining strong support from the community which will have a large input into the whole scheme.

Suffolk ProHelp was able to contribute to this ambitious programme by providing legal support through solicitors Marshall Hatchick.



SUMMARY

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 National Lottery Community Fund. 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



THANK YOU

We are very grateful to our funders: The National Lottery Community Fund.

