

KCC Community Asset Mapping and Resilience project

Overview

KCC are funding a community asset mapping project across three geographical areas in Kent. This project is a joint venture between Public Health, who are funding the study and Policy and Strategic Relationships.

For the purpose of this project Assets could be:

- a community group
- individuals
- physical places
- voluntary organisations or
- whatever people value and identify as an asset in their community.

The work has already been undertaken in two areas of Dover – Dover Town and Aylesham and is now being undertaken in Swale- Sheppey. The third area we are proposing is Swanley and KCC officers have had an initial meeting with Lesley Bowles to discuss the project. The entire project is expected to last 6 months with a final report produced by the end of August 14.

Esro a social research company are carrying out the work on behalf of KCC, using an ethnographic research approach.

Project Outcomes:

We hope that this project will enable us to have a:

- Greater understanding of the contribution of the Independent sector's (including the Voluntary and Community sector) role in community resilience and demand management
- Greater understanding and recognition of the contribution provided by community assets and informal support networks
- A proven methodology and concept which can be used in other areas of Kent
- Greater understanding of the conditions required in Kent to enable community assets and networks to be strengthened and be self-sustaining in order to improve well-being.
- Greater understanding of the role the local authority can play in helping to establish the conditions in which assets can be self-sustaining.
- An insight into how community assets enhance social resilience.
- Increased awareness and understanding of how the community can develop the six ways to wellbeing¹

¹ The Wheel of Wellbeing (WOW) has six dimensions; connect, be active, keep learning, take notice, give and care – this is part of a communication strategy and campaign to support good mental health and is based on the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale.

Approach:

Esro are delivering the project on behalf of KCC and have developed a methodology which involves:

- Desk based research
- Community mapping field work – investigative place based
- Development of a survey
- Recruiting peer to peer researchers from the local community to carry out the survey and to promote community capacity
- Deep dive interviews with local residents
- A workshop to assess the social and economic impact of different assets
- Producing an asset log
- Asset profiling – cost benefit analysis of identified assets

The work in Swanley is likely to start at the beginning of June and Esro will provide an opportunity for local stakeholders; officers and members to be briefed on the project.

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