

Appendix I

Community Development – building a sustainable voluntary and community sector in Swale.

Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012:

Economic Factors

- **Number of local jobs created/sustained:** Proportionate to the contract size, our proposals will directly ensure a minimum of 0.5FTE of a job. The intention is that this role will continue beyond the life of the contract. This contract will also support consortium partners to sustain existing roles within their organisations. This will be most impactful for those partner organisations with a turnover of <£500k pa whereby c.62 jobs will be sustained. It is also intended that our work will support the wider VCSE in Swale to better access opportunities to grow their income. It's impossible to predict the impact of this on sustaining and creating jobs by the ambition is to have a significant impact.

- **Number of training opportunities:** Our service will deliver tailored free training up to a value of £9,5000, to VCSE in Swale, to upskill the sector in line with the sector needs and demands. Consortium partners already deliver a range of training opportunities to the local VCSE sector so are experienced in this area and able to add significant value to this commission as a consequence. We will also deliver increased promotion of local volunteering opportunities and the benefits of volunteering. This will help increase capacity and in turn sustainability within the VCSE. It's also recognised that volunteering can prove to be an effective route into employment for people lacking the skills, confidence and/or experience. Our programme may therefore also help reduce the number of people relying on out of work benefits locally.

- **Ensuring fair working conditions and payments:** Consortium partners promote best practice across the sector to support local VCSE organisations, to ensure fair working conditions and payments are in place and that organisations meet their statutory responsibilities. Consortium partners have access to employment law and best practice advice that is made available to the sector locally, helping to ensure fair working conditions for their employees.

- **Ensuring ethical supply:** Our Interactive Resource Hub will support the sector to access ethical supply channels. Suppliers will be vetted to participate as a provider on the Hub to ensure compliance with ethical standards set by the SVA.

Environmental

As a collective and through our programme delivery, we will reduce CO2 emissions through a range of activities:

- Our Interactive Resource Hub and the SVA more widely will champion the use of environmentally friendly goods and services to the sector in support of tackling climate change mitigation and the climate emergency declared by Swale Borough Council in 2019. This in turn will support local VCSE organisations to reduce their carbon footprint. Through this we will look to generate savings and efficiencies for the local VCSE, which will support their strength and sustainability.

- A number of consortium partners already provide water and fuel minimisation advice and devices to residents in Swale, which contributes to climate change mitigation, reducing their carbon footprint, waste minimisation, reducing pollution and energy efficiency.
- Consortium partners already support the reduction of food waste, with up to 874 tonnes of surplus food saved and redistributed by one partner in 2022/23. A proportion of this surplus food benefitted sixteen charitable and community organisations within Swale saving them £325K on their food costs.
- Within the consortium we make use of buildings adapted to use LED, underfloor heating and solar power which also helps to minimise our energy use.
- To support the sector to 'Go Greener' we will signpost (through our 'one stop shop' platform) to SCVS existing digital resources/guidance. We will also provide a template environmental policy for the sector to access and adopt.
- We will avoid the use of single use plastics at events/meetings and utilise reusable products to avoid waste.
- Digital communications will be our preferred method and we will only use printed materials where digital exclusion is a barrier to accessing our programme.

Social

- **Increase volunteering opportunities:** Through our project this will become easier for the sector to achieve. Not only will we help increase and promote the number of volunteering opportunities, we will help organisations with managing, training, supporting and retaining volunteers as they are the beating heart of the voluntary sector. Volunteering is proven to help improve people's mental health (and is identified as one of the '5 ways to wellbeing')
- **Enabling community development and engagement:** Our service will be about supporting and working in collaboration with the sector and community. We will embrace all organisations across the sector to support their development. Engagement and participation are key principles of our work and communicating with and working for the sector will be the foundation of the relationships we develop.
- **Encouraging social integration and community cohesion:** Our project will unite the local VCSE sector. We will provide the tools and support needed to support organisations to support the social integration and cohesion of communities in Swale.
- **Enhancing and celebrating local culture and heritage:** As a sector it's important to celebrate Swale's local culture and heritage. SVA has a wealth of knowledge and a variety of partners covering various cultures and ethnicities, working with different communities, age ranges and demographics. Swale has a mixed blend of need across its geography and although they are different, they are similar in many ways, therefore, it's important we provide a tailored and inclusive project that becomes the voice of the sector across Swale.
- **Contributing to health improvement programme and addressing health inequalities:** Several consortium members already deliver health improvement services that tackle health inequalities through programmes such as the Community Health Catalysts, the work of Seashells in tackling child health inequalities and through projects such as Include Me Too, which is estimated to have generated a total of £286k of social value (A Swale CVS joint Project with EK360). This experience and expertise will be used to support the VCSE sector in Swale to

access opportunities to develop more programmes to tackle health inequalities within the Borough through capacity building and the funding club.