

## Infrastructure Support – the Current Situation

### Social Care, Health and Wellbeing – Community Support Market Position Statement

Supporting a vibrant, strong and connected voluntary and community sector is a key objective for the Council. We believe this sector is a key partner in helping to prevent, delay or avoid people entering into formal social care or health systems

Not only is the voluntary sector a significant provider of services to vulnerable adults in Kent, but it is also a major player in the Kent economy in terms of the number of people it employs. The reduction, both nationally and locally, of funding for the voluntary sector is impacting on the sustainability of organisations and conversely the support that they provide.

We currently invest £660,000 in funding to organisations that support volunteering and which provide administrative, logistical and business support to the voluntary sector, this enables them to deliver their charitable aims and objectives.

Our relationship with the voluntary sector is outlined in the ***Voluntary and Community Sector Policy*** which can be found at:

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/corporate-policies/voluntary-and-community-sector-vcs-policy>

### Tendering Opportunities

To support the implementation of Voluntary and Community Sector Policy, Adult Social Care and Public Health will be commissioning a new offer of infrastructure support to the sector.

Initial engagement occurred between November and December 2015, co-production of a new model of support will continue into 2016, with the expectation that a new contract will be tendered by December 2016.