



Community Southwark

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 @cosouthwark

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Registered charity no: 1105835 Company no: 5090324

IMPACT REPORT

2019/20



Community
Southwark

“

“I thoroughly enjoyed it – thank you so much and I’m sure the information/ learning will be put to very good use!”.

2019 Governance Made Easy training attendee

”

“

“I had not realised how much help and information would be available to me. This has made me feel much more confident in my ability to structure my monitoring and evaluation”.

2020 Impact training attendee

”

“

“Facilitators great knowledge – thank you!”.

2019 Finance Made Easy training attendee

”

“

“Thank you @cosouthwark for hosting a much needed and useful event for the sector”.

2020 Cross Sector Conference event attendee

”

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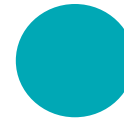
OUR VISION

We strive for a Southwark in which all communities and individuals can fulfil and exceed their potential.

OUR MISSION

We empower local people and voluntary organisations with the tools they need, to work together in creating a borough that works for everyone.

OUR VALUES



We are brave



We are impactful



We are collaborative



We are supportive

These values are always underpinned by:



Our commitment to representing and promoting equality



Putting Southwark communities at the heart of everything we do



INTRO

2019/2020 represented another busy year in the life of the charity. Community Southwark also went through a lot of change during this period, with many staff and trustees leaving the charity. We appreciate the support and dedication of all our staff, trustees, volunteers, funders and supporters

during this time. We are also very grateful for the financial and pro bono support we received from a range of sources. Our main funder remains Southwark Council and other key funders include: City Bridge Trust, National Lottery Communities Fund, Guys and St Thomas' Charity, Southwark Clinical

Commissioning Group. Our main pro bono supporter in 2019/2020 was ZS Associates.

Towards the end of the financial year we acted swiftly to support the local Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) and local residents and responded to the covid-19 pandemic. When lockdown was announced we moved to working from home and running our meetings through the online platform zoom.

We provided a dedicated space for information on our website and started sending out weekly e-bulletins.

We supported volunteers and organisations needing volunteers, linking them together. We joined local Mutual Aid Group WhatsApp groups and created our own WhatsApp Broadcast group to provide information straight to the Mutual Aid Group Leads. In addition, we created a dedicated Covid19 website section, including

fact sheets and training on topics such as Safeguarding.

We worked to provide support to organisations still operating and have been a key part of the sector-wide response, working in partnership with Southwark Council and the local NHS as part of the 'Community Hub' steering group and in bringing providers together and creating a joined up response with appropriate tools to support this response.

2020 saw Black Lives Matter draw more attention to the inequalities that many of our members have been fighting for decades, adding new impetus to our commitment to supporting communities in this struggle.

We hope that our support has been useful to the sector at this very challenging time. Let's take a look back at how we did this and what impact we made.

WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO

Through our strategy, 'Building Stronger Foundations', we said we would:



Help build stronger foundations for organisations and individuals - in three years we want to have made a measurable improvement in the capacity and capabilities of organisations and individuals to deliver the best outcomes in their communities.



Support increased community involvement, participation and influence - over three years we want the process of volunteering, getting involved in community setting or influencing decision makers to become easier, more accessible and valued.



Support greater co-operation and sharing - within three years we want to see significant changes in how we work together (across and between sectors) in a way that is supportive, non-competitive and focused on outcomes; not budgets.



Improve investment in communities - within three years we will have forged new relationships with business, academia and other sectors to create new ways of supporting communities to grow and thrive.

Our strategic priorities for 2016-19 were:



To enhance the capacity and capabilities of organisations and individuals, to deliver the best outcomes for their community



To enhance community involvement, participation and influence



To enhance collaboration, joint working and co-operation across all our stakeholders



To improve long term community investment

We set out to achieve these priorities through:

- 1:1 support surgeries
- Training and events
- Consultancy
- Online information and resources
- Regular ebulletins
- Volunteer management advice
- Volunteer advice surgeries
- Networks and Representation
- Practical team challenges
- Skills-based volunteering

SO, DID WE ACHIEVE THIS?

We said we would: Help build stronger foundations for organisations and individuals.

One way to build stronger foundations for voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) is to provide one-to-one support and training. In this period:



173 organisations received direct advice and support from us



We delivered 32 training events with 209 attendees



68% (117) of organisations we supported had an income of less than £25,000.



We supported casework covering more than 12 categories, from income generation, start-ups to governance and leadership.



8% of the groups, primary beneficiary were people of BAME backgrounds.



20% of the groups worked primarily with Children, Young People & Families.



We supported 31 groups to access funding, helping bring around £326,620 into Southwark.

Community Southwark delivered a support programme on impact practice to VCS organisations. In 2019/20:



We delivered 10 training sessions to a total of 76 attendees



70% strongly agreed that they would recommend the training



We delivered 1:1 intensive support to 26 organisations



Understanding on all training topics increased from an average score of 4 (out of 10) to 8

2019

Volunteer Coordinator of the Year Award 2019

Sue Fairfield

Bedeuse Association



We said we would: Support increased community involvement, participation and influence.

We worked with marginalised groups and networks to act as champions for their communities and to support engagement in local and national initiatives:

Southwark Voice played a significant role in the way the Southwark Council designed its new way of communicating with the local community. This resulted in a redrafted Vision and Principles for Community Engagement in Southwark and was approved by cabinet.

A new network for sports and physical activity was created and played an active role in shaping the Southwark Council's 'Active Southwark: Sport and physical activity strategy 2019 to 2023'.

Safeguarding proved to be a popular training module and so a new network was established in 2019 where leaders of VCS organisations share best practice and influence the training that is offered by Southwark Council.

The Creative Network continued to thrive, amongst the topics covered in this period included a workshop on shaping the future of Southwark Council's culture, events and festivals grants programmes.

The Latin American Network continued to gain new members in this period. The meetings involved stakeholders from the Southwark Council, academics and health partners to better understand the needs of the community.

The Universal Credit Network (UCN) gained some funding from United St Saviours in 2020 and attendance increased at each quarterly meeting and training sessions.

85% of attendees feel they can better support and advise service users thanks to the meetings

The Kingswood Network was engaged in Southwark Council's consultation on a sustainable Kingswood House. We liaised with Southwark Council and the SFAA Network to make Kingswood House a food distribution hub and supported an emergency foodbank set up by Kingswood Estate TRA.



The Small Groups Network held quarterly meetings with around 77 organisations, covering topics from funding, negotiating and managing property leases and evaluation & Impact.

The Southwark Emergency Support Scheme (SESS) project offers a grant conduit and reconciliation service for payments made between Southwark Council and delivery partners: Family Fund, Furnish and Universal Credit. The payments are made to the benefit of local residents who are facing a crisis, emergency or disaster and need help.

Throughout this period we have:

£326,620 handled grant payments to the value of £326,620



1,585 helped 1,585 households in Southwark



We continued to represent the sector at key meetings run by the local authority, local NHS and by Voluntary & Community Sector (VCS) organisations. These included:

- Regular catch up with Southwark Council Officers working in engagement and with the VCS
- Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) Directors Network
- Community Safety Partnership
- Equalities & Human Rights Panel and Forum
- Safeguarding Children and Adults Joint Board
- Safer Communities steering group
- Health & Wellbeing Board
- Southwark Funders Network
- London Giving Development Leads Network

We continued our work to promote social action to ensure local communities have a voice:

Southwark Community Action Network (Southwark CAN)

In this period Southwark CAN:



Developed the website for Camberwell Identity campaign run by SE5 Forum, Camberwell Society and Camberwell Arts and supported their

+18%



Increased Southwark CAN Twitter followers by 18%

64



Created a borough wide network of 64 Mutual Aid Groups via email and WhatsApp to disseminate reliable information and resources.

230



Created a community map of 230 Covid-19 services to support signposting of community resources.

Camberwell and Nunhead Connected:

Camberwell and Nunhead Connected is a new project which started in October 2019. The project takes an asset-based community development approach to build local solutions to health and wellbeing issues and increase social action. In this period:

- We ran St Giles Together workshop on local resources, ideas for improving local health & wellbeing and barriers to participation
- We identified community assets, like unused green spaces and halls.
- We raised awareness and support of Southwark Council and CCG, Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations etc.

42



We attended 42 neighbourhood events & meetings

70



We spoke to 70 tenants about their area over 5 outreach sessions.

Since lockdown, in Camberwell and Nunhead we have been:

- connecting new mutual aid groups with existing community groups.
- Linking groups to extra funding & volunteers.
- Distributing resources, information and tools.

We supported people to get started with volunteering in their communities through our Volunteer Advice Service, outreach, information and events:

+300



Our Volunteer Advice Service saw over 300 people come through our doors

+150



We promoted over 150 volunteer roles through our website

200+



We attended 26 outreach events and ran 1 volunteer Fair with 200 attendees

26

12



We ran our Southwark stars event with 12 award winner & over 80 winners given certificates for 100+ hours of volunteering

80

500+



We ran our Southwark Showcase event with 17 organisations showcased & over 500 attendees at The Tate Modern

17

Employee supported volunteering

Corporates have provided pro bono support to charities through our program *Involve*, giving the much-needed support and expertise through team challenges and skills-based volunteering.



46

46 team challenges were delivered that included painting and gardening



8 new skill-based projects were started

We said we would – support greater co-operation and sharing

A core element of our work is to try and develop effective communication and collaboration amongst VCOs (Voluntary and Community Organisations).

Universal Credit Network (UCN) – our UC information sharing platform has had positive feedback at each network meeting and more organisations join us each time

Annual Member Survey – we have sent out our Annual Members Survey which we have used to inform our new strategy and therefore the support that we are providing

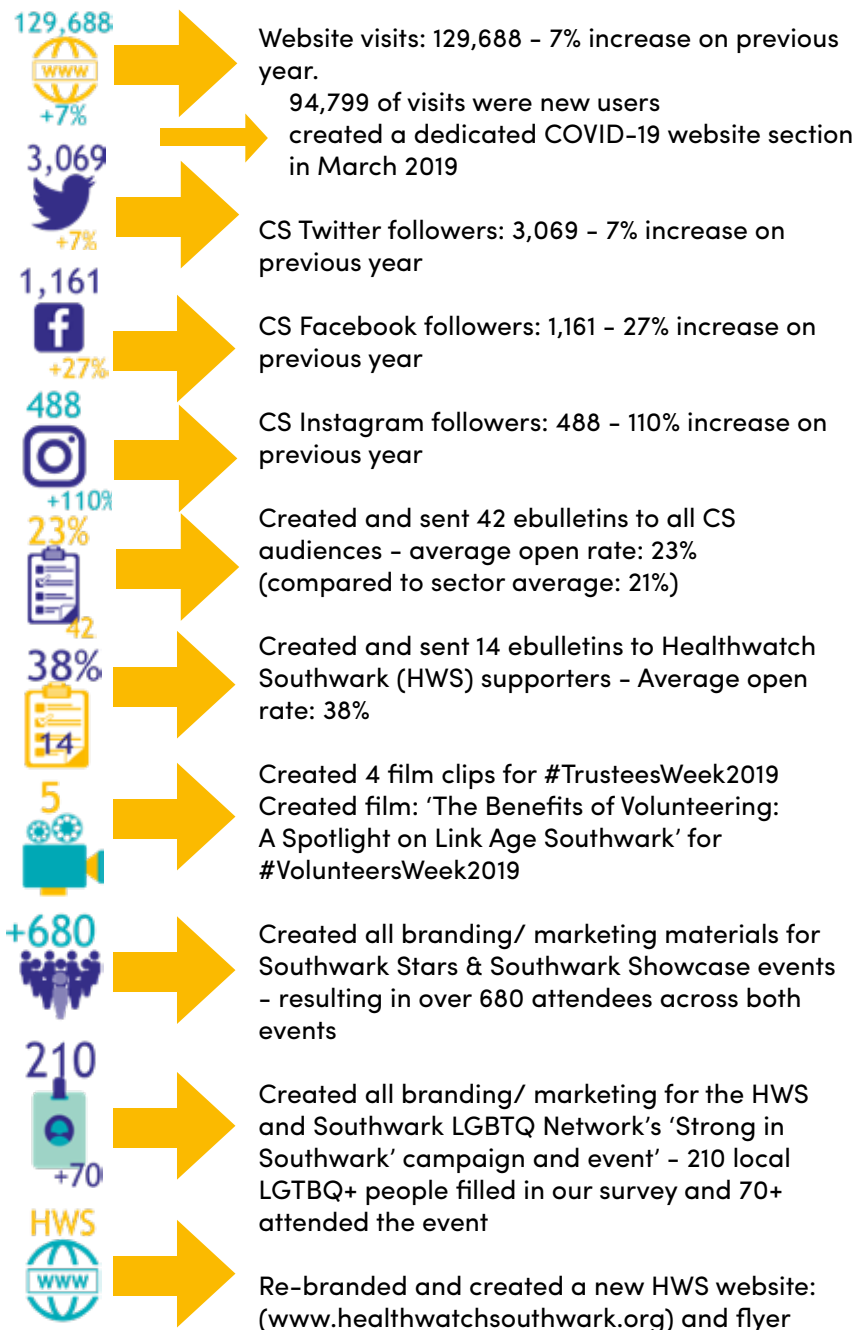
Monthly State of the Sector survey – we have created and sent a monthly survey out to our members, asking what their current needs are and sharing this across meetings that we have attended

Food Map – We created, along with our Southwark Food Action Alliance (SFAA) partners, a food map for people to find where their local food banks are located which we will continue to update.

Our networks – we have been working on the development of our networks to strengthen collaboration between the organisations who attend.



A YEAR IN COMMUNICATIONS



WHAT'S NEXT?

We will continue to support local VCS organisations and residents to respond to the Coronavirus. Our food security programme (Southwark Food Action Alliance) has, and will continue to, play a key role in the response to the pandemic, helping the coordination of getting vital food supplies to those in need. Plus, we've created, along with our partners, a food map for people to find where their local food banks are located which we will continue to update.

We have received funding for some exciting new projects: Social Prescribing, Community Grants, Community Health Ambassadors, and our Talent Works Programme. We will be sharing these with the sector to let you know how you can get involved. We've also started work on our Make your Mark project, a two-year programme providing

free evaluation and impact support to the Voluntary and Community Sector in Southwark.

As well as continuing our support in the response to the Coronavirus, we are working on improvements to our financial procedures. Plus, we have a brand new strategy, a new database and website, and so we are excited about the year ahead. Our staff team and trustees collaborated to conduct a strategic review of our charity and all its activities and operations in August 2020. Through this 2020 strategic planning, we have confirmed our three new priority areas.

Our aim going forward is to ensure our charity is built on the strongest possible foundations for the future. We are very proud to support the voluntary and community sector, so please keep telling us how we can help you.