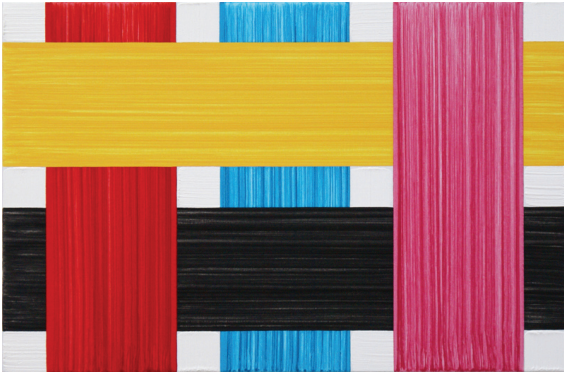


Hidden Surrey

Why local giving is needed to strengthen our communities



Surrey Community Foundation was established in 2005, in one of the last areas of the country to have a foundation of this kind. It is distinct from the other non-profit and voluntary organisations locally in its objectives of raising funds from private and corporate donors and investing them on their behalfs through a professional grant management programme. It is also distinct in its objective of establishing a permanent endowment fund for the benefit of Surrey communities and thus provides a mechanism for the bequest of legacies and other assets.

This leaflet summarises a more comprehensive report which is the result of a consultation with voluntary organisations and community groups, as well as key individuals with a strong commitment to strengthening Surrey's communities. The report is intended primarily to give an insight into the range and extent of opportunities locally for private and corporate funding and the critical need for increased levels of local giving.

Surrey's appearance as a wealthy county is deceptive. Throughout there are tight pockets of deprivation, enclosed within housing estates or even within a few streets, with high levels of child poverty, low income, poor mental health and other significant problems. Often they are adjacent to affluent areas that camouflage the extent of need, driving down the statistics and diverting public funds to areas of more widespread poverty in other parts of the country.

New approaches to funding are needed

Infrastructure in Surrey is geared to an affluent population with the highest per capita ownership of vehicles in Britain. Consequently those living in relative poverty are all the more excluded from the norms around them. At the same time, local government receives significantly less funding per person for essential services than is the national average.

Government funding formulae put Surrey at a disadvantage. As a county, it contributes around £5.5 billion per annum to the Treasury but does not receive a commensurate return. In fact, only £205 is received per person for essential services in comparison to a national average of £595 and £856 for each person in Manchester.

“We have pockets of severe deprivation, vulnerability and risk that, in so many ways, are not being identified effectively.”
Chief Constable Surrey Police, Bob Quick.

With diminishing public funds, a greater burden is placed upon local voluntary organisations and community groups to deliver essential programmes and services. These organisations report increasing difficulty in obtaining grant funding for precisely the reason that, when funds are allocated according to absolute numbers, Surrey seems less deserving than other places. Yet many of these smaller players are pioneers in their fields and are addressing some of the most acute needs and problems.

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Rensburg Sheppards Investment Management Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rensburg Sheppards plc which is quoted on the London Stock Exchange.

The Rensburg Sheppards Group has 11 offices nationwide and around £11 billion of clients' assets under management. Our office in Farnham, manages portfolios for private individuals, charities and personal pension funds.

We like to support local causes and are therefore delighted to be sponsoring the Surrey Community Foundation who undertake such valuable work in the county. We look forward to working with the Foundation over the coming years, and wish them all the best for the future.

If you think we can be of any help, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Children and Young People

While statistics indicate that the average number of children living in poverty has decreased, at a national level, between 2001 and 2007 from 21% to 18%, the proportion in Surrey has increased from 9% to 10%.

Young people living here achieve well above national averages at the age of 11, however those who have a Statement of Special Educational Need or receive school meals under-achieve against these averages. Exclusions from school of those with special needs are twice the national average. A recent Ofsted report raised deep concerns that statutory services for children with high levels of need, who do not meet the threshold for child protection, are inadequate.

There are many voluntary groups and organisations around the county who are working with young people, to engage them in meaningful activities and to provide them with structure, training and support. It is these voluntary organisations and groups that are most effective in delivering preventative programmes to divert young people from trouble.

Disability

Families with a disabled child experience great difficulty and charities report a critical need to increase respite care. In general, the costs of bringing up a disabled child are three times higher than those for a child without disability and the parents' opportunity for work is significantly reduced. In Surrey, where the costs of living are exceptionally high, this places a particular strain, notably increasing the risk of family breakdown.

The South East has the highest rates of sickness absence in the country, with mental and stress related illnesses the greatest factors. The closure of Brookwood

Hospital in the early eighties transferred much responsibility for caring for those with mental health problems to the voluntary sector. Organisations such as Oakleaf Enterprises are highly effective in returning those with mental health problems to employment, but are experiencing the closure of important sources of public funding.

Older People

Surrey has both a slightly higher proportion of older people and a higher life expectancy than is the national average. The costs of social and residential care are much higher here than in neighbouring counties, reinforcing the importance of enabling older people to stay living in their own homes. Voluntary organisations that provide services to people in their homes and provide opportunities for social and leisure activity are critical to maintaining independence.

Community

Britain has been described as *‘the most centralised state in the developed world’*. Local giving provides a way of reclaiming our communities, particularly in a county that where statutory funding is limited. There is growing interest in establishing funds to pool private donations from donors who would like to support their immediate town or village. This enables people regardless of their financial means to become donors and provides a source of permanent endowment for local causes.

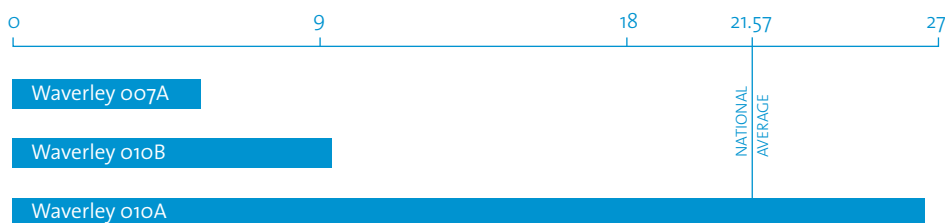
There is increasing interest in the capacity of community philanthropy to address some of our most enduring social problems. The report *‘Hidden Surrey’* is intended to reveal the extent and range of opportunities locally for private and corporate donations. Not only is there need to support established professionalised charities but also small, grassroots community groups that engender self-reliance and community cohesion.

Sheerwater and Maybury Partnership

In Maybury and Sheerwater, the ward that ranks highest in Surrey on the Index of Multiple Deprivation, the link between social deprivation and poor literacy is acutely evident with an estimated 38% of its population unable to read. Steve Thomas, who has been running the Sheerwater and Maybury Partnership, points out that although in general literacy levels have increased by around 10% over the last decade, they have remained static in this ward. While nationally low literacy is around 19%, the figure of 38% in Maybury and Sheerwater may be a significant under-estimate. His mission is to tackle the problem of children arriving at secondary school at the age of 11 with a reading age of 7 years or younger. As he points out, the whole school curriculum presumes a reading age of 11 and so these children get left further and further behind. The targeted intervention, using a system called *‘synthetic phonics’*, provides each child with an individual volunteer tutor. While poor literacy is the common denominator in communities that are socially deprived the probability of a young person being excluded from school and of entering crime increases three or fourfold

if they are failing at the age of 11. His arguments are supported by a report by KPMG which quantifies the potential cost to the state of the special needs education, truancy, unemployment benefits and crime if a young person fails to read adequately. KPMG's research estimates a lifetime cost well in excess of £1 million if poor literacy precedes a trajectory of failure and exclusion resulting in poor health and crime.

The Sheerwater and Maybury Partnership has made significant progress in recent years. It has been approached by other schools in Surrey to replicate the successful programme elsewhere, demonstrating that children are struggling to learn to read in other parts of the county. In response to growing interest, Steve Thomas has created a new organisation called *‘Let's Read’*. This is distinct from the Partnership which will continue to focus on broader local needs. Let's Read represents an exciting and positive step towards ensuring that children are not disadvantaged for life by poor literacy. But of course, it needs financial support from donors.



Index of Multiple Deprivation: average of SOA scores (2007)

This chart shows the levels of Multiple Deprivation in one of Farnham's electoral wards demonstrating the way that areas of high deprivation are adjacent to areas that are much more affluent. It is only since statistics were published for 'Super Output Areas' with wards divided into several zones, that the extent of deprivation within some of these zones became clear.

Opportunities, Sandy Hill

This chart shows that the housing estate of Sandy Hill on the edge of Farnham ranks has well above average deprivation even though it is surrounded by much more affluent areas. Ten years ago there was little sense of community cohesion within the estate and many residents were trapped, unable to obtain employment through lack of skills, low literacy and numeracy. In 2002 the estate's warden took the initiative to establish IT training courses and a training consultant, Carol McFarlane, was appointed. Over the last six years Carol has extended the programme into a range of other areas and has called

it 'Opportunities'. In addition to IT classes, tuition in numeracy, literacy and life skills including nutrition, cooking, budgeting and parenting is provided. Members are encouraged to obtain formal qualifications and some have achieved NVQ Level 1 in IT and others have gone on to Level 2.

Such is the progress of the Opportunities Project that the group are endeavouring to adopt a business approach to use their IT and Life Skills to provide services to other people on the estate and beyond. Another important factor in the group's success is the physical location of The

Bungalow where courses are held. It is at the entrance of the estate right next to the primary school. Members can come straight in after dropping their children at school and consider it now as a resource that belongs to them and a place that is safe. As Carol observes 'the heart is coming back into the village'. They are raising money by making and selling cakes at the school to fund some trips over the summer and a visit to the pantomime. This project would not have been able to continue without a grant from Surrey Community Foundation.

Concluding Comments

The county's general affluence camouflages the pockets of deprivation, driving down statistics and diverting much needed funds to other parts of the country. If even the most acute needs cannot be fulfilled with the funds available, services and programmes that are about culture and quality of life are also threatened.

Donors bring not only essential financial but also moral support. Very often, they can respond flexibly and co-operatively to funding requests by leaders of voluntary and community organisations operating under difficult and uncertain conditions.

We have, within this county, a strong tradition of local giving with some outstanding examples of philanthropy. We also have many excellent voluntary organisations that are striving to improve lives, motivate young people, prevent a cycle of deprivation, support and nurture the elderly and disabled and strengthen communities. At a time of profound economic change, we need to build upon this strong foundation to encourage self-reliance and to enable those with surplus wealth to make sound social investments for the good of this fortunate county.



inspiring local giving for local need

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