

Chair's report

The last 12 months have been challenging for Samphire, but they have also given us new opportunities and allowed the charity to develop further. It has been a year of consolidation, in terms of our two main projects, the Ex-Detainee Project, and the Community Engagement Project, which are both blossoming and well respected.

It has also been a year of change, some staff members have left us, and I would like to thank Christine Oliver and Caroline Browne for their hard work for Samphire, and some new staff members have joined us (Tanya Long). Tanya, and before her departure Christine, have been able to secure funds in recent months, which have not only enabled us to continue to do the work we were doing, but also to expand in some new areas.

In this respect, I am particularly grateful to all funders of Samphire, your support is essential for our work. Finally, it has been a year of many highlights. The Dover Multicultural Festival is one of them, with an attendance beyond any expectation, it has been a truly wonderful celebration of diversity and togetherness in Dover. Another highlight is the Schools of Sanctuary work that we have been doing in recent months, which has enabled us to develop further learning resources and engage with young children in discussion about immigration and diversity.

Finally, the contribution of our Ex-Detainee Project continues to support people in dire need. Looking at our Evaluation Report from early 2017, it has been heart-warming to see what difference our work makes, and how much it is appreciated.

Looking forward, 2018 will be challenging again. We need to secure further funds to enable us to continue with our projects. We hope to recruit a new staff member to take on the Community Engagement Project, and we will continue to deliver support services for Ex-Detainees and work to make Dover a more welcoming place!

I would like to thank the staff of Samphire, Angie Murphy, Indre Lechtimiakyte, Tanya Long and Brenda Hounsell for their hard work, their commitment and their support for me as the Chair. I would also like to thank all other Trustees, and volunteers who have supported Samphire's work. It would not have been possible to have such an amazing impact on so many lives, if it were not for the dedication of people in the wider support network of Samphire.

Dr Soeren Keil, July 2017

Ex-Detainee Project report

In February 2017 the project came to the end of the three year funding from Big Lottery Reaching Communities. The project has achieved so much during this time and the funding allowed us to advise, enable, and empower ex-detainees, as well as influence policy to improve life after detention.

During this three year funding period:

- We have taken on 424 new ex-detainee clients.
(116 this reporting period)
- Assisted people from 86 countries (and stateless individuals).
- Dealt with 9072 individual requests for assistance via our national helpline.
(3126 this reporting period)
- Had contact with 918 individual ex-detainees.

Requests for our assistance are predominantly made via our telephone helpline. The assistance needed can vary: the most requests we have are for emotional support, followed by emergency financial/travel support.

Emotional support

We provided emotional support to ex-detainees 733 times in the 12 months this report covers. Our overview perspective is that ex-detainees rarely have a supportive network of people who can provide active listening and our level of expertise with recognising and assisting with mental health issues and ex-detainees well-being is key to providing the unique type of emotional support lifeline that our project delivers. This can usually only be offered by specific counselling organisations at either a cost or through an NHS referral. Over the three year funding period, 95% of ex-detainees surveyed said they felt better having been involved with our project.

‘Every time I have spoken to a member of samphire I have felt good emotionally, and I am very grateful.’

‘They have given me hope and made me feel like a human being.’

(Ex-detainee comments from the 2016 telephone survey)

Emergency support

Over this funding period we have assisted ex-detainees with accessing emergency destitution support using many different types of resources available to us. This

reporting period we provided emergency support on 349 occasions. There is always greater need than we can cater for, however the Ex-Detainee Project fills a vital role in supporting ex-detainees at times of crisis.

'They were very, very helpful- I had no food, no idea what to do and their lady sent me money and helped me go to court to challenge Home Office. So I am now settled in Oxford area and working.'

(Ex-detainee comment from the 2016 telephone survey)

Ex-Detainee Conference 2016

The 2016 Conference was a great success; we had an attendance of over 100 people, including ex-detainees and people from other organisations. The conference reinforces the impact the project has on its clients and helps to establish additional links with organisations that may not have had contact with us in the past. We held some inspiring workshops on self-advocacy, feel good music, caring for yourself emotionally, art and showed a virtual reality film. We had some fantastic speakers from Still Human, Still Here and Right to Remain. We received some great feedback including the following from an ex-detainee: *'The conference has given me my self-confidence back, thanks for that'*.

Community Engagement & Awareness

Raising report

Over the last year Samphire's Community Engagement Coordinator Caroline Browne has been actively involved in community engagement and awareness raising working on different projects and initiatives in cooperation with local community groups, schools and organisations. With assistance of volunteers and supporters, community engagement and awareness raising work kept on focusing on enhancing a culture of welcome for migrants and refugees, expanding knowledge of local community on migration and celebrating multiculturalism and diversity.

In March 2017 the Community Engagement Coordinator has left Samphire and aspects of the Community Engagement and Awareness Raising project have been shared between other staff members – Angie Murphy and Indre Lechtimiakyte.

In the year of 2016 – 2017 the Community Engagement and Awareness Raising project has organised:

Migration workshops in local schools

Working with local schools was one of the identified aims in the initial project brief. In the last year we have:

- Established a focus group of educational experts to work with them to design participatory migration workshops for a range of ages.
- Delivered workshops to over 600 primary and lower secondary school pupils.
- Delivered training to teaching students at Canterbury Christchurch University looking at how to support migrants in schools and effectively deal with migration related issues in the classroom.

Events

Samphire has organised, alone or in partnership, seven awareness raising and/or community cohesion events over the last year. Their aims have varied widely (from awareness raising to community discussion to celebration). Samphire has organized the screening of the film “Syrian Love Story” in a Dover cinema, exhibition Just1Thing, refugee week events, a Community tea jointly with Stand Up to Racism and other events.

Talks

Samphire offered talks to any group who was willing to listen and has been actively advertising the offer of talks in local networks. Samphire has been invited to 8 groups throughout the year. Feedback from these talks has been the most positive with 100% of surveyed

respondents saying they have learnt something new about migration.

Migrant Community Support Project

One of the projects great strengths in the last year has been its ability to work flexibly and respond quickly to identified local needs. This has led to two initially unexpected areas of work:

- **The Folkestone Road Hub** – facilitation of the Folkestone Road Hub was taken on in partnership with Dover District Council (DDC) in response to the risk of this community space facing closure. The hub was established by DDC in response to a need to address high levels of tension and anti-social behaviour in the ward and it is supported by a number of services and agencies. Under Samphire’s management attendance of the hub has grown, especially among young people. 42 families and 47 individual people had engaged with the project by the end of January 2017.
- **Support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASCs)** – establishing a community club for UASCs in the Dover area was undertaken in response to an identified need from the Refugee Council about the isolation of this group

in Dover. The club ran for 6 months before winding down after Christmas 2016.

Samphire's project has allowed some vital community support and integration spaces to be established and to thrive.

Alternative Voice

Samphire has actively maintained an alternative voice on social media, the internet and the press both locally and nationally. In the last year we have:

- Established a new blog.
- Appeared 15 times in the local press with good news and facts driven information about migration.
- Appeared once in the national press providing information about migration.
- Grown our social media following and impact.
- Created new publicly accessible easy facts guides (including animated facts videos) and promoted them throughout our networks.

Networking and local partnership building

Considerable time and energy has been spent this year in raising awareness about Samphire in local networks and in building partnerships with local organisations and the statutory sector. Samphire is now relatively well established locally and the project is often contacted for

advice from organisations regarding migration issues, in order to support accessing migrant communities and in view of future partnership work.

One new network was established by Samphire - a local City of Sanctuary group East Kent Network of Sanctuary. After its successful launch in February 2017 due to capacity issues Samphire had to step down from coordinating it in March 2017. However we stay in touch due to Kent Schools of Sanctuary project.

The Future

Looking forward to 2017-2018

2016 – 2017 has been a year of developing, and taking forward, ideas both within our Ex-Detainee Project and our Community Engagement Project.

Together with ex-detainees, we have created an exciting new Community Champion programme which will establish peer support groups in four new regions of England. Groups will be run by Ex-detainee Community Champions, who will be trained and supported by Samphire. We aim to get this project up and running from autumn 2017.

With the Community Engagement project now embedded into the work of Samphire, we look forward to *Dover Together* - our first multi-cultural festival in Dover in May 2017. Together with residents and visitors, we will celebrate Dover's diverse communities through a selection of cultural performances, workshops and international foods.

Our partnership with the Port of Dover continues, and with their support we are able to further develop our coordination of the Folkestone Road Community Hub, enabling members of the Roma and other communities to engage and become more active in Dover.

In the summer term of 2017, we consolidate another new partnership with the Diocese of Canterbury and Canterbury Christ Church University. Together we will be launching our Kent Schools of Sanctuary Project, taking interactive workshops to primary schools to encourage children to learn about migration in a safe and supported environment. We have ambitious plans to roll this out across schools in Kent from autumn 2017 onwards.

And finally, our Community Engagement Project looks forward to a more active and facilitative role in the East Kent Sanctuary Network, following our successful launch earlier in this year.

Exciting times, which come with an ever more pressing need to secure funds. Fundraising is a priority for Samphire, and we have a rigorous plan to ensure we secure new grants for new ideas, as well as core funding to secure the future of our essential Ex-detainee project. We will be re-applying to the Big Lottery Fund and other major funders who share our values and objectives. With financial security Samphire will be able to have the maximum impact to achieve our objectives.

We look forward to the year ahead.