



Samphire

Changing attitudes to, and improving the lives of,
ex-detainees and migrant communities

Annual Report 2017-2018

Patron: Rt.Rv.Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover
Registered Charity No. 1106667

Chair's report

It has been a challenging period for Samphire in the last twelve months. The period started with some wonderful news in October, when we were informed that our application for funding for the Ex-Detainee Project had been accepted by the Big Lottery Fund, and we had been awarded substantial funding for three years. In recent years, funding has been a key issue for Samphire, and we have been working hard to ensure Samphire's project can continue, grow and develop. The BLF grant has enabled us to take some time and reflect, consolidate and plan the next steps.

For the first time in many years Samphire has now recruited a Director, and I am very happy that our previous Fundraising Manager Tanya Long has returned to us as the Director and has already put her stamp on our policies, funding applications and internal processes. I would also like to thank Stacey Clark for her work for Samphire as the Community Engagement Coordinator, which ended on a high – with the Multicultural Festival in June 2018, which was well-attended and well-received.

Our Ex-Detainee Project has expanded and both Angie Murphy and Indre Lechimiakyte have been working hard to keep supporting Ex-Detainees in need, provide support and developing the new Community Champion Programme. We also organised an Ex-Detainee conference in June 2018, which was well-attended and well received.

Our projects are consolidating, and having a real impact. In fact, I am pleased that we have been able to hire two staff members to take on the Community Engagement Project, now

focusing specifically on our Schools' work and on the work surrounding the Dover Welcomes All project. This is exciting and will allow us to expand our activities and also get more active on social media.

It is my third year as the Chair of Samphire. I am glad to have seen the charity not only consolidate but grow and now making a real difference, in Dover and beyond. I would like to thank the staff of Samphire for their commitment and hard work. Additionally, I am also grateful to my fellow Trustees, who have been wonderful in helping and supporting me to guide Samphire through some difficult and some less difficult times! Further, I would also like to thank our volunteers who make such a difference and allow us to do many of the things we do. Finally, I would like to thank all funders of Samphire, your contribution is invaluable and enables us to do the work we are doing!

Samphire's mission and vision focus on the support for people in need, on changing the discourse on migration and on promoting a more welcoming and open Dover. In light of political developments such as Brexit and the rise of populist leaders everywhere in the world, I believe that our work will be more important than ever in the future! I am glad to see Samphire in a strong position to continue and expand its work in the face of these challenges.

Dr Soeren Keil, August 2018

Community Engagement Project

Samphire's role in the community has grown over this year as we engage more local residents in our aim to celebrate diversity and make Dover an open and more welcoming town. Samphire has continued to raise awareness about migration, giving talks in the community and running workshops in primary schools. Between April and September 2017, our community engagement work was taken forward by our Ex-detainee Coordinators, Angie Murphy and Indre Lechtimiakyte. In September 2017, we were fortunate to secure new funding and were joined by Stacey Clark in her role as Community Engagement Coordinator, taking forward the different projects encompassed by Samphire's community engagement project.



Dover Welcomes All brings together local residents to discuss ideas which draw together the diverse cultures of Dover and support community cohesion. It is a people led project, facilitated by Samphire. A launch event was held in February 2018, where 23 residents attended and created an action plan of activities and events.

Subsequent events have included an assembly at Green Park Primary with Raga Gibreel - a trustee of Samphire- who spoke about her experiences as a refugee from Sudan. We facilitated a youth cinema trip, international cookery workshops, and networking events for local community organisations.

Volunteers who joined Dover Welcomes All have continued to help organise events during Refugee Week 2018 and Samphire's second Multicultural Festival in 2018. The project continues to hold regular meetings and is working to increase greater local participation.



First Dover Welcomes All meeting- 31st January 2018

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. During this reporting period, an average of 28 local residents attended the hub every Thursday evening, together with a number of local services and agencies. External professionals

were regularly invited to give talks and workshops on issues including healthy eating, children's behaviour, social benefits and housing, and mental health. Weekly activities for the children include boxing, cooking and crafts. We organised walking trips to the White Cliffs among other local destinations.

During the year, Red Zebra, through their Roma in the Lead project, employed Iveta Janova, a volunteer for Samphire and the hub, to become the Roma Development Worker in Dover. Iveta Janova has made a huge difference, drawing in further members of the Roma community.

Our partnership in the Folkestone Road Hub will come to an end in 2019 as we achieve our outcome of supporting local residents to take the lead. We thank the Port of Dover for their continued support.



Preparing for a community BBQ-14th September 2017



The **Kent Schools of Sanctuary project** was developed following a pilot schools project run April 2017- July 2017. It was funded by the Church Urban Fund and ran in partnership with the Diocese of Canterbury and Schools of Sanctuary. 268 children and 24 members of staff participated in classroom based workshops teaching pupils about the differences between migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, as well as encouraging open thought by pupils and schools towards immigration.

Following the pilot, Samphire was approached by several schools in Dover who wanted to participate, and after securing funding from the Kent Community Foundation, we were able to roll out the project to schools within Dover and East Kent. The project has been very successful, reaching a total of 2,611 pupils plus their teachers, within 14 different primary schools.

We have delivered all-school assemblies as well as workshops to pupils ranging from 4 years- 11 years old.

There are three stages to our Kent Schools of Sanctuary project. The schools who have committed to the project must complete all three stages culminating in the school gaining a School of Sanctuary Award, a nationally recognised award supported by the City of Sanctuary network.

LEARN- We provide extra-curricular workshops and tools and lesson plans for pupils and staff, through our online resource based website, to continue learning about refugees and migration.

EMBED- We support schools to embed this learning into curriculum subjects.

SHARE- We encourage schools to share their experiences and new found knowledge with the broader community.

Several schools have reached the stage of embedding their learning into their own policies and procedures and are heading towards the Schools of Sanctuary Award. Feedback continues to be positive, with 94% of pupils stating they have learned something new, and 91% stating they understand what it means to be a refugee.

Pupil's comments:

'It made me feel sad for the people who don't have a home'

'It made me feel sorry for people who have to migrate and it made me feel appreciative'

Teacher's comment:

'The misconceptions some of the children showed towards the whole idea of migration and immigration have hopefully been corrected and the children are beginning to see the whole idea with thought and compassion'.

The Kent Schools of Sanctuary has great potential and Samphire will be seeking further funding to continue and expand the reach of this project.

In the immediate term, a small grant has been secured to run a pilot in two secondary schools in Dover, starting in September 2018. It is hoped this will serve to raise further funds for this essential and effective area of work.



**Schools of Sanctuary
Kent**

Committed to being a safe and welcoming
place for everyone.







Multicultural Festival 2017

In May 2017 Samphire held its first multicultural *Dover Together* festival, supported by Big Lottery Fund *Celebrate*. Our aim was to bring the residents of Dover together to celebrate and explore our diversity. Showcasing the rich variety of cultures which make up Dover, the festival gave people the chance to try new music, food, dance and art, to learn about other cultures, as well as to celebrate traditional British culture, and to see the positive impact that diversity can have on the town. The event was a reflection of the partnerships built over the year by our then community engagement coordinator, Caroline Browne and, on her departure, our Ex-Detainee Coordinator, Indre Lechtimiakyte who took on the delivery of the festival.

To support community cohesion and to encourage people to engage, we organised five development workshops which ran prior to the festival and appealed to different sections of the community: International cooking workshops, upcycling sewing workshops that made costumes for maypole dancing on the day. Around 100 children from three local primary schools were involved in weekly workshops, learning African drumming, Indian and Roma dancing, but also learning about the cultures from their workshop facilitators.

The festival itself, on the day, showcased several performances, including three local primary schools performing dance and music from different cultural heritages that can be found in Dover -

African, Indian, and Roma; also Dover Folk Songs; and a Latin band Performance.



The festival attracted over 700 visitors, over 20 local community groups, a variety of schools and local services as well featuring in local newspapers and social media. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with comments reflecting the importance of bringing together and celebrating Dover's diverse cultures.



Ex-Detainee Project

Since this time last year, we have registered 100 new ex-detainee clients and dealt with nearly 2000 individual requests for assistance.

There are 570 active users of the project of which 12% are women, this is an increase in comparison to previous years. The average age of our service user is 41.

Our freephone helpline was extended in November 2017 to 5 days a week - from 10am-1.00pm - for anyone who has been in or been affected by immigration detention.

Ex-detainees call us for different reasons, however the main reason is because they have no money to eat, or for essential travel. Some people are sleeping on night buses or in parks because their asylum support has been discontinued, or because they've been released from detention to the streets.

Destitution amongst ex-detainees remains a huge problem, this year we provided emergency support and help with travel on 486 occasions. The small amount of money we provide on a monthly basis can have a huge impact, as documented in our most recent survey;

'I was given the first warm coat, as I was released from detention in a shirt on a cold November day, and the first £20 in my pocket.'

The emergency support we provide direct to ex-detainees is difficult to fund, however we were fortunate to receive a donation from Lush and have a couple of regular monthly donators to the fund. Fundraising by volunteers and staff keep the fund topped up and this year's seasonal appeal 'make Christmas count' raised £977.50!

We have noticed an increase in the emotional support we provide via our telephone helpline, year on year, and in the past year alone we have had well over 500 calls asking for emotional support. From our most recent survey in May 2018, 100% of ex-detainees who responded, said that the project had helped at a time of need, with 80% saying they felt less lonely and isolated.

Our findings show that emotional support is a crucial need for ex-detainees, and thanks to Big Lottery funding, granted in November last year, we were able to go on to develop the Community Champion Programme.

The **Community Champion Programme** is a peer support group for ex-detainees, run by ex-detainees who are trained to become community champions and support each other within their communities. This has been developed to cover four regions of the UK- Plymouth, Middlesbrough, Rochdale and Uxbridge.

Our plan is to set up the groups in the four regions, deliver training, integrate the community champions into their area

through developing links with support organisations and actively support them throughout their delivery of the project. Ultimately, the aim is for this new people-led initiative to become self-sustaining and we foresee it being rolled out across the country.

The Plymouth Community Champion Programme started in February 2018, we have established links with local migrant support organisations who have become involved with promoting and supporting the programme. The community champions have been running meetings independently and have delivered presentations at other organisations to their staff and service users.



Plymouth Community Champions

Rochdale, Middlesbrough and Uxbridge Community Champion Programmes are to follow later this year.

Finance Report

Accounts for the year to 31st March 2018

INCOME	2018	2017
	£	£
Donations and legacies	1,765	11,812
Grants	<u>127,855</u>	<u>56,550</u>
	<u>129,619</u>	<u>68,362</u>
Bank interest received	<u>44</u>	<u>252</u>

Raising Funds

Staff salaries	80,996	85,801
Staff pension costs	764	0
Volunteer expenses	506	5,517
Staff training	0	32
Staff expenses	0	0
Recruitment	879	225
Phone cards	0	0
Travel expenses ex-detainees	845	64
Miscellaneous ex-detainee expenses	18,984	13,640
Subscriptions	239	239
The hub expenditure	1,963	388
Sundry expenses	<u>570</u>	<u>5,354</u>
	<u>105,746</u>	<u>111,260</u>

Governance Costs	2018	2017
	£	£
Rent & Rates	5,502	5,409
Repairs & Renewals	79	247
Stationary & office expenses	0	0
Postage	1,751	4,608
Telephone	3,960	2,528
Website	0	0
Computer expenses	1,093	530
Other office	2,185	1,205
Insurance	665	694
Accountancy	1,499	1,359
Professional fees	0	634
Equipment costs	1,713	0
Depreciation of equipment	<u>0</u>	<u>217</u>
	<u>19,076</u>	<u>17,431</u>

The Future

Taking Samphire forward in 2018-2019

As Samphire leaves behind a period of uncertain financial security, we look forward to a period of stability where we can take forward our many plans for growth and development. Our rigorous fundraising strategy brought success with the award of a three year grant from the Big Lottery Fund for our Ex-Detainee Project, significant grants from Allen Lane to support our Director's post and People's Health Trust and Kent Community Foundation among others, for our community engagement work in Dover.

So we are in exciting times. As our Ex-Detainee Coordinators, Angie Murphy and Indre Lechimiakyte, develop and expand the Ex-Detainee Community Champion Programme we will look to how community champions can contribute to changes in their communities as well as policy debates, such as bringing an end to Indefinite Detention in the UK.

As MP support for this issue grows, we were delighted that Diane Abbott, MP and shadow Home Secretary, gave the key note speech at our 2018 Ex-Detainee Conference and spoke with a number of ex-detainees. In 2019 Samphire will celebrate its 10th year of the Ex-detainee project.

Our community engagement work has increased and is having a bigger impact in Dover and its surrounding areas, thanks to the hard work of Stacey Clark, who did brilliantly in delivering

our second multicultural festival before leaving us in June 2018. Thanks to local support and funding, we plan to hold another festival in the coming year.

In August 2018 Tanya Long returned to Samphire as our new Director, bringing her valued fundraising skills and new ideas for project development and growth. Tanya is excited to be leading on developing our strategic plan which will seek to raise Samphire's influence both locally and nationally.

In September 2018 we are joined by two community engagement coordinators:

Frederika Treeby- leading our Schools of Sanctuary project by supporting primary schools to achieve the Schools of Sanctuary Award as well as running a new pilot project in Secondary Schools in Dover.

Richard Barnard- leading our Dover Welcomes All project, building on our existing relationships in the area and developing new and exciting ideas to make this town a more welcoming place for all to live in.

We look forward to the year ahead and hope to have made great progress towards achieving our shared vision by next year.

Aims 2018-2019

- Develop a new Strategic Plan which aims to consolidate and strengthen the reach of Samphire's projects, encourages new development, and raises Samphire's influence both locally and nationally.
- Strengthen the financial stability of the charity thereby securing the continuation and expansion of existing projects and the development of new initiatives.
- Utilise Samphire's unique experience and voice to bring a greater degree of humanity to the conversation about migration at both local and national levels.



Staff:**Brenda Hounsell**

Finance and Administration Manager

Angie Murphy

Senior Project Coordinator

Indre Lechtimiakyte

Project Coordinator

Stacey Clark

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Tanya Long

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Don Wilton (Vice-Chair)

Sara Hutchinson (Secretary)

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Raga Gibreel

Dr David Bates

Thanks to our funders:

BIG lottery

ARM trust

Hilden Charitable Trust

Cole charitable trust

London Churches

Gibbons Family Trust

Marsh Christian trust

Nicky & Eileen Barber

Simon Langton School for Girls

Allen Lane

Kent Community Foundation

RG Hills charitable Trust

Peoples Health Trust

Lush

Kent County Council

Dover Big Local

Dover Town Council

Nancy Wishart Charitable Trust

Port of Dover Community Fund

and to all our individual funders

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