

Staff:

Brenda Hounsell Finance and Administration Manager
Angie Murphy Ex-Detainee Senior Project Coordinator
Indre Lechtimiakyte Ex-Detainee Project Coordinator
Stacey Clark Community Engagement Coordinator
Richard Bernard Community Engagement Coordinator
Frederika Treeby Community Engagement Coordinator
Tanya Long Director

Trustees:

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Sara Hutchinson (Joint Chair)
Don Wilton (Vice-Chair)
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The National Lottery Community Fund
People's Health Trust
The Brook Trust Fund For Kent
Lush
Port of Dover
The Hilden Charitable Fund
The Cole Charitable Fund
The London Churches Refugee Fund
Dover Town Council

The Gibbons Family Trust
KCC Members Grant
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The Hilden Charitable Trust
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The Allen Lane Foundation
The Marsh Christian Trust
R G Hills Charitable Trust
Dover Big Local

and to all our individual funders

Contact Samphire

Tel: 01304 242755

Address: 56 Castle Street, Dover, Kent. CT16 1PJ

Email: info@samphireproject.org.uk

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Samphire

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

Annual Report 2018-2019

Patron: Rt.Rv.Trevor Willmott

Registered Charity No. 1106667

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Chair's report

It is with pride that I introduce Samphire's Annual Report on behalf of myself and Christine Oliver, my Co Chair. I'd like to begin by thanking the previous Chair, Soeren Keil, whose dedication to Samphire's goals and mission steered us through some tricky times when we did not have a Director in post and were facing uncertainty around the continuation of the Ex-Detainee project. I'd also like to give our upmost thanks to our patron, Trevor Willmott, the outgoing Bishop of Dover. He continues to inspire many of us with his passionate plea to make the world a kinder and more generous place for those who are vulnerable and have found themselves living in the UK often through persecution, discrimination and violent circumstances.

We find Samphire in a positive position under Tanya's Directorship. £15,000 has been awarded to continue the work of Dover Together from the Henry Smith Trust. This is a great achievement allowing further sustainability of the charity and the opportunity for Dover Together to continue to make great strides in providing grassroots community advocacy. She also secured £6,000 from Allen and Overy to begin a legal project supporting EU nationals facing uncertainty following the UK's departure from the EU and for Ex Detainees needing legal assistance. This is an area of possible development for Samphire and we look forward to seeing where the learning takes us.

This year has found us responding to the media in an unexpected way. In the winter of 2018, migrant crossings of the channel reached national news level and comments from

the then Home Secretary continuing the 'Hostile environment' narrative. Samphire was able to comment and provide a balanced view regarding the reasons why people were crossing and the reality of their situation on arrival. As an organisation we recognise the importance of advocacy in our work, seeking to influence public perception and policy where we can, and we hope to build upon this in the forthcoming year.

Staff and the Committee will be working on Samphire's strategy in 2019-2020 which sees us consolidate much of our work and prioritise our direction moving forward. As an organisation, it is important to take stock, reflect, evaluate and plan our next steps in order to be relevant and sustainable. We hope to achieve this thoughtfully and with meaning, always putting the values and needs of service users at the heart of our mission.

For now, I'd like to finish by saying thank you to all staff, volunteers, committee members and funders who contribute to the important work of Samphire. We couldn't do this work without you and your contribution is really valued and crucial in helping to work towards a society which respects and values migrant communities.

Sara Hutchinson, Co-Chair, 30th August 2019

Community Engagement Project

Dover Together

Dover Together brings the diverse communities of Dover together through community events and activities which aim to strengthen social cohesion and, in particular, dispel the negative myths that exist around migration. Samphire has supported the development of a resident-led steering group which meets on a regular basis to discuss ideas and issues, and deliver events and activities that create positive experiences for people in Dover. Between April 2018 and April 2019, the Dover Together Steering Group has hosted international film nights, international cookery workshops, and participated in several local community events.

In June 2018 Samphire held its second Dover Together Multi-Cultural Festival, funded this year by Dover Big Local and KCC Member Grants. Over 700 people attended the festival and enjoyed performances from Dover primary school children, local and Roma bands, African drumming alongside workshops for all to participate in, and international foods to taste. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, paving the way for this to become an annual event in Dover's calendar.



Dover Together Multi-Cultural Festival 2018

In December 2018, the first Dover Together International Football Tournament took place at Dover Leisure Centre with competing teams including unaccompanied asylum seeking teenagers from Millbank, Dover Pie Factory Youth Group, local business team and Dover Harbour teams, and a Dover Together team. Future tournaments are planned for 2019.



Dover Together International Football Tournament

In early 2019, plans began for the June 2019 Festival - with workshops running in primary schools once again, and new ideas including Sewing and Fashion Workshops leading up to big Fashion Show at the June 2019 Festival.

Over the course of the period, relationships have been greatly strengthened not only between residents, but also with other key stakeholders in the community including organisations such as Dover Big Local, Dover Town Council and Dover District Council. The Steering Group has now gained greater confidence and skills to lead on planning and delivery of events largely independent of Samphire.

In July 2018, Stacey Clark left the role of Community Engagement Coordinator. Richard Barnard took over the role from September 2018. We thank People's Health Trust for supporting this role.

Samphire continued to support the **Folkestone Road Hub**, in partnership with Roma in the Lead and DDC. In April 2019, as the group established itself as a community group in its own right, Samphire withdrew from the partnership. We continue to be a strong partner with Roma in the Lead, and are currently collaborating through our new Legal Project.

Kent Schools of Sanctuary Project

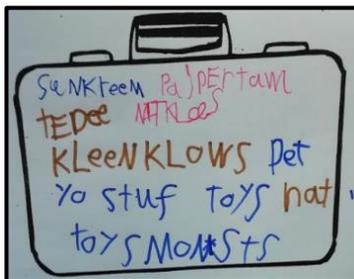
The **Kent Schools of Sanctuary Project** has now been running for two years; this originated in an initial pilot project in 2017, funded by the Church Urban Fund. This year, we have built upon our initial work with primary schools in East Kent; we have offered on-going support to those schools we already partner to gain School of Sanctuary status and, and with funding from the Kent Community Foundation, have also enrolled 4 more primary schools in to the project.



Paddington Bear helps younger children



Celebrating difference



What would you pack on your journey?

We have also been able to extend the age-range of students we work with. This year, following a grant from Brook Trust Fund for provision of funding for a pilot project, we approached two contrasting secondary schools in the Dover area who have both been enthusiastic to work with us in raising awareness and supporting students to explore migration issues. This is with an aim to counter the hostile environment, and to reduce the occurrence of discrimination and racial hatred within schools and communities. Our initial work in Secondary schools has highlighted the lack of factual information available to young people, and the desire for teachers to be equipped to tackle this divisive topic.



A message for refugees

*Conversations using stones with
Peter St Ange*

During this year, we have also been approached by two more secondary schools and plans are now in place to deliver workshops and assemblies across these schools pending

further funding. Each of the schools involved have expressed a desire to work further with Samphire in school, and also with students becoming involved with volunteering and fundraising. As with the primary schools, we also aim to support secondary schools to achieve School of Sanctuary status.

Teacher's responses:

"The department, the students and I really appreciated you coming. Your work in enriching our students and tackling misconceptions is vital in creating a well-informed, critical and tolerant student body. I look forward to working closer with you and the Samphire Project in the future.

"A very informative and emotionally powerful workshop with some good interactive elements."

Overall, the project has continued to be very successful; it has proven to provide a valuable partnership between Samphire and the local community, with new schools waiting to sign up to the Schools of Sanctuary programme. Through presenting assemblies and workshops, and initiating schools projects, we have reached a total of 3024 primary and secondary students from 18 primary and 4 secondary schools; additionally, 79 teachers have also been present at the workshops.

Of the schools we have worked with, 9 primary schools have received, or are due to receive School of Sanctuary status. These are schools where the whole school: staff, governors and students, have taken ownership of the School of Sanctuary ethos of being welcoming and compassionate to refugees and

other migrants. These schools celebrate the diversity of their local community and are considerate towards children and families who experience forced migration. Therefore, gaining a school of Sanctuary status is a great achievement and reflects the hard work and dedication of teaching staff.

Moving forward, and in response to feedback, we are looking to secure further funding with the aim to enrol 12 more primary, and 4 more secondary schools in the Dover and Thanet area. The Schools programme has also been extended to offer training to staff prior to delivering workshops to students; where this has been carried out, staff have expressed their appreciation for having had myths dispelled and facts clarified. They feel far better equipped to discuss the subject of immigration, within school and in the wider community.



Deal Parochial Primary School received their award at the Multicultural Festival

Ex-Detainee Project

In this reporting period we have registered 120 new ex-detainee clients and dealt with over 2500 individual requests for assistance. There are 660 active users of the project of which 17% are women, this is an increase in comparison to previous years. The average age of our service user is 41.

Our **freephone helpline** continues to be open 5 days a week from 10am-1.00pm - for anyone who has been in or been affected by immigration detention.

The issues that ex-detainees call us about are largely the same as in previous years, however the main reason is because they have no money to eat, or for essential travel. For example, we fund people's travel to get on night coaches from Glasgow down to London to see their children for a day and then go back on the following night coach, to travel up to Liverpool's Further Submissions Unit for their asylum applications, etc. 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, especially since some legal changes came into force in February 2018. This year we provided emergency support and help with travel on 304 occasions.

The emergency support is quite difficult to fundraise for. Although we have been quite lucky with a relatively stable Destitution grant, in order to ensure the continuity of this fund we have reduced it to £500 a month. This means that on average we are able to help 30 people a month. Fundraising by volunteers, supporters and staff keep the fund topped up

and this year's seasonal appeal 'make Christmas count' raised £1000!

Year on year emotional support remains the biggest part of our work: people call us because they feel lonely and isolated, have anxiety issues due to the fear of being re-detained, etc. In the past year alone we have had well over 200 calls asking for emotional support. Therefore, in autumn 2018 one of the project staff received counselling training for non-counsellors. The new member of staff is due to attend the same training in the coming months.

From our most recent telephone survey in September 2018, 76% of ex-detainees who responded, said that they felt less lonely and isolated because of the project and 93% indicated that the project is valuable and necessary.

In the last year we invested a lot of time in setting up and developing **Community Champions Programmes** – peer support groups for ex-detainees, run by ex-detainees. During this reporting period we have established new Community Champions programmes in Rochdale, Middlesbrough and Uxbridge. Although Rochdale and Uxbridge have been closed since, we are extremely happy that a year later we can see some of the community champion programme meetings attendees taking ownership of these groups and being actively involved in planning their future.

Developing Community Champion programmes has strengthened our ties with other organisations across the country. In total, during this reporting period we have established contacts with 18 new organisations and attended over 20 networking meetings and events all around England.

We also continue to give our input into **policy change**, for instance by providing evidence to a number of research and by being part of various networks and forums in the sector.

During the last year we attempted to establish contacts with immigration removal centres in England, which lead to us participating in information days at IRCs Morton Hall and Yarl's Wood.

In June 2018 we have organized the 9th **Ex-Detainee Conference**. The conference was enjoyed by over a 100 people – both – ex-detainees from across the country and friends from partner organizations.

In November 2018 Samphire completed its **OISC LEVEL 1** registration. OISC registration now allows us to deal with very simple legal requests by ex-detainees, such as changing reporting conditions or addresses.

At the end of this reporting period we started investigating what would be the best way to celebrate 10 years anniversary of the Ex-Detainee project in summer 2019. After consulting with staff and clients, we decided to invite the ex-detainees to Dover, where they could enjoy some time at the seaside and the Multicultural Festival, joining together in the evening for food and dance and celebrating the Ex-detainee Community.



Moments of the Ex-Detainee Conference 2018

Mon, Jan 21, 10:38 AM (22 hours ago)

Dear Indre and Angie

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my gratitude for the moral and practical support I have received from Ex Detainee project.

Thank you very much Indre for finding out, printing and posting the document that explains that we are allowed to Volunteer. I underwent through so many barriers, i.e. being told by various professionals that I was not allowed to volunteer. Thank you very much, now I volunteer for Salvation Army in Croydon.

I would like to thank Ex Detainee for supporting me with transport and morally since 2016 with my Family court case regarding contact with my two Sons. I was successful with the case but this would not have happened without your support with travel expense to court. Now I am happy to say that contact with my sons is 6 times a year.

You have helped me with transport to hospital appointments regarding surgery on my head which was a success. I thank you again Ex Detainee, you have also helped me with subsistence support which I am very grateful for.

Most of all you have inspired me to realise there are caring people out there, your sympathy and empathy has been very encouraging after having so many knockbacks in my life, now I am able to give back to the community and contribute to society.

Please continue the good work and be blessed.

Thank you

A thank you email from a client

Finance Report

Accounts for the year to 31st March 2019

<u>Income</u>	2019	2018
	£	£
Donations and legacies	4,507	1,765
Grants	161,897	127,855
	166,405	129,619
<u>Other Trading Activities</u>		
Fund Raising	189	
Other	911	
	1,100	
<u>Investment Income</u>		
Bank interest received	56	44
<u>Raising Funds</u>		
Staff salaries	118,557	80,996
Staff pension costs	1,885	764
Volunteer expenses	309	506
Staff training	1,030	0
Staff expenses	0	0
Recruitment	225	879
Phone cards	2,000	0
Travel expenses ex detainees	2,327	845
Misc ex detainee expenses & activities	24,797	18,984
Subscriptions	325	239
"The Hub" expenditure	1,024	1,963
Sundry expenses	132	570
	152,612	105,746

<u>Governance Costs</u>	2019	2018
	£	£
Rent & Rates	5,139	5,502
Repairs & renewals	726	79
Advertising	4,073	0
Stationery & office expenses	2,972	0
Postage	1,054	1,751
Telephone	3,744	3,960
Computer expenses	4,622	1,093
Other office	3,589	2,815
Insurance	748	665
Accountancy	1,251	1,499
Professional Fees	3,086	0
Bank charges	45	0
Equipment costs	0	1,713
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	31,050	19,076

Director's Report

It has been a privilege to return to Samphire as Director. Thanks to a fantastic team, and a period of financial stability, Samphire has developed its projects and expanded its reach – making a positive difference to the lives of people we work with. Our community engagement work in schools and in the community has grown considerably, strengthening Samphire's position as a key community player in Dover. Our Ex-Detainee Project has grown to include regional support through the creation of ex-detainee run peer support groups being offered across England – an initiative that has not been without its challenges but has equally brought forth a positive impact on those involved. During this period we developed a new Legal Project which over the next year, will provide much needed immigration support to residents of Dover, in particular vulnerable EU nationals seeking to apply for EU Settlement.

As the charity has been without a Director for several years, my initial focus was to strengthen our organisational and staff capacity: Policies have been updated, the charity is now GDPR compliant, and IT systems have been improved. A new website has been created, and our social media includes Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. A new performance management process is now in place, and new opportunities have been made available for staff training.

Fundraising has been a key element of my role and, as always, there have been successes as well as disappointments. Priority has been to secure the future of Samphire's community engagement projects. This has been partially met with grants awarded from The Henry Smith Charity, Brook Trust for Kent, and Hilden Charitable Foundation which will allow the projects continue into 2019-2020, as the funding from People's Health

Trust, Kent Community Foundation and RG Hills comes to an end. The 2018 Multi-Cultural Festival was funded by Dover Big Local and KCC Members Grants, and the 2019 festival by a National Lottery Awards for All grant and KCC Members Grants. Allen Lane has supported the Director's post for one day per week, and Collyer Ferguson awarded funding towards the Finance Manager post. Gibbons Family Trust awarded us a small grant to take our Schools project to Thanet. We are grateful once again for the support provided by LUSH for our Emergency Support Fund which brings much needed relief to desperate ex-detainees, along with support from London Churches Refugees Fund for destitute ex-detainees in London. On behalf of Samphire, I wish to thank all our funders for their support, without which we would not be able to achieve so much. I would like to express our gratitude for the private donations we receive, particularly for our annual Christmas Appeal – all of which contribute to the Emergency Fund.

In December 2018, we began to witness the plight of desperate people leaving the harsh conditions in northern France crossing the Channel in small dinghies to reach our shores in the hope of a safe and new life here in the UK. Whilst this has caused a huge media response, with Samphire and other migrant supporting charities in Kent at the heart of this, we must never forget the harsh reality faced by displaced people all over the world. We continue to advocate for safe passage for all refugees and will counter the anti-migrant rhetoric this has stirred up not only in Dover, but nationally. We understand there is compassion and confusion creating polarised opinions - we will support our community by providing the facts and reality of issues surrounding migration. To this end, I have responded to various media calls including BBC News, The Guardian, local press and Kent Radio.

Looking to the future, I am taking Samphire, our staff and trustees along the journey of strategic planning. This involves reviewing our vision and mission, and developing strategic objectives which are realistic and achievable, and which are aligned with our vision. We will review all our projects to ensure we are making a real difference to people's lives. We are keen to expand our work with children and young people through our work both in the community and schools. And in the field of detention and post detention we will continue to advocate for an end to indefinite detention, a move to alternatives to detention, whilst always keeping in mind our ultimate goal of ending detention altogether.

Every year sees a change in staff: This year saw the departure of Stacey Clark from her role as Community Engagement Coordinator - we thank her for her hard work. Richard Barnard joined Samphire between in September 2018 and July 2019. We thank him for his input in to building ever stronger relationships through the Dover Together Steering Group and pulling together our first Football Tournament. Frederika Treeby joined us in August 2018 as our Kent Schools of Sanctuary Coordinator and her commitment to this work has brought great results with more schools on board including our first Secondary Schools. This year we also said goodbye to Angie Murphy, who worked as our Senior Ex-Detainee Coordinator for seven years - she is very much missed by all the ex-detainees she supported over these years and indeed her colleagues too. Ana Sanchez Salgado has joined the Ex-Detainee Project and whilst new to the migrant sector, she has settled in quickly and is bringing new ideas to the project. At time of writing, we have recruited our newest member of staff, and we look forward to welcoming Kay Marsh to Samphire as Community Engagement Coordinator for Dover Together. I cannot thank my team enough for their fantastic work and

commitment, and their wonderful support through good and sometimes challenging times.

Finally, I would like to thank our Co-Chairs, Christine and Sara, and all trustees for their support in this first year as Director - I have been greatly supported and thank them for their commitment to the work of Samphire. I reiterate the Co-Chair's thanks to Trevor Willmott – retiring Bishop of Dover - for his longstanding and continued support as Patron of Samphire.

Tanya Long, 30th August 2019

