

## Launching the Social Impact Gateway – opening doors to new income opportunities in Medway & Swale.

As VCSEF leaders, you know the sector is experiencing an increasingly competitive funding environment, during a period of political, social and economic volatility: Donations and sponsorship levels are decreasing and at the lowest levels recorded by CAF; Reductions in statutory grant and contract funding continue; Health system restructuring and reductions impacting contracted service delivery; Global geopolitics are creating increased economic uncertainty for us all.

Whilst MVA and the VCS Leaders Network continue to evolve sector services and support to help us all respond to these challenges, there are also new national models of good practice that could further boost our sector's capacity to generate income – the Social Impact Gateway (SIG) model. The SIG model gives **all sizes** of VCSEF groups/organisations access to **new funding** by amplifying access to business and public sector partners. The Procurement Act 2023 encourages public sector and corporate funders to deliver “public benefit” as part of their contracts. Many want to fund credible, local organisations, but don't always know where to find you or have capacity to manage the process for multiple grants on a hyper-local basis – the SIG model provides the solution and empowers us all to build stronger communities.

By providing simple, fair and transparent processes and support for local VCSEF groups/organisations to become affiliates with the SIG, the whole sector can gain access to new income opportunities in addition to those they already hold; diversifying their income streams and improving financial resilience in the face of present and future socioeconomic challenges.

Becoming an affiliate of the SIG is free and open to any VCSEF group or organisation in Medway and Swale. To find out more and to join the SIG, visit:

[www.mva.org.uk/organisations/SIG](http://www.mva.org.uk/organisations/SIG)

*Why should you sign up today to become an affiliate of the SIG?*

- Potential to access new sources of income
- Only need to sign up once, then apply for relevant funding opportunities
- Free support to develop your 'contract readiness' status
- Opportunities to build new partnerships with fellow SIG affiliates
- Participate in co-design conversations with buyers and commissioners.