

Social Impact Gateway - *A new approach to supporting local partnerships and investment in community impact across Medway & Swale and East Kent.*

As public sector partners continue to navigate complex challenges — including tighter budgets, increased demand for services, and new legislative requirements — we know there is a shared ambition to strengthen communities and deliver meaningful local impact.



In tandem, MVA and SEK have developed the **Social Impact Gateway (SIG)** to respond to this current landscape. The SIG offers a practical mechanism to support commissioning and funding of local VCSEF (Voluntary, Community, Social Enterprise and Faith) organisations, ensuring that public investment reaches trusted groups working at the heart of communities.

The SIG model aims to:

- ✓ Provide a coordinated way to work with VCSEF organisations already supporting people with the wider determinants of health
- ✓ Connect commissioners with groups who hold long-standing relationships at a hyper-local level
- ✓ Offer a single point of access for engagement, co-design and research activity
- ✓ If needed, manage compliance, monitoring and reporting, helping to meet transparency and accountability requirements
- ✓ Align with the Procurement Act 2023 – in particular, Section 12 (public benefit) and Section 13 (transparency and accountability)

Why this matters now

VCSEF organisations are under increasing financial pressure due to a decline in donations and sponsorship, ongoing reductions in statutory funding, and broader economic uncertainty. Despite these challenges, the sector continues to adapt and evolve, and there are emerging models of good practice that could be replicated locally.

The SIG is designed to help address these pressures by making it easier for public sector partners to engage with, fund and support VCSEF organisations in a way that is practical, proportionate, and locally responsive.

What the SIG offers to public sector partners

- A diverse range of quality-assured VCSEF organisations that are ready to deliver
- Options for brokerage or a fully managed service, with clear and transparent fees
- Support throughout the process — from early-stage planning to reporting
- A structure that supports compliance with public procurement standards
- The opportunity to invest in community-led solutions that contribute to broader system goals

Currently powered by MVA in Medway & Swale and SEK in East Kent, the SIG model has been designed for interoperability and agility to allow for future system/local government boundary changes.

The SIG isn't just another grant funding model; it's a growing network of VCSEFs and funders committed to long-term, meaningful impact. If you're ready to connect with new opportunities and amplify your impact, **we'd love to hear from you.**

Next steps

The SIG is currently being piloted in East Kent and Medway & Swale, with the aim of supporting future interoperability across Kent as local priorities evolve.

To find out more or to explore how you might work with the SIG, please visit:

www.mva.org.uk/organisations/SIG

Or get in touch if you would like to discuss this further with the team:

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