

## Ashford Corporate Giving Fund

The Ashford Corporate Giving Fund brings together Ashford businesses, entrepreneurs and individuals committed to supporting their local community.

The aim of the Fund, run by Kent Community Foundation, is to connect socially responsible local businesses with innovative projects making a real difference in the local community and helping those most in need. It is this collective and proactive approach that is so powerful in bringing about tangible changes in the community and maximising the potential impact of each member's contribution. Corporate social responsibility is no longer an activity just for large, multinational corporations. Businesses of any size can play their part in effective local giving and supporting their community.

Each member makes an annual charitable donation to KCF, of between £1,000 - £2,500 which is pooled to create a collective fund. Twice a year, members come together via KCF to decide what local causes to support. This is a great networking opportunity for local businesses and people to find out more about the most pressing issues facing the local community and to discuss long-term needs and solutions.

90% of the Ashford Corporate Giving Fund goes directly to the local causes. Kent Community Foundation retains 10% as a donation towards the cost of running the fund.

To find out more please email [josephine@kentcf.org.uk](mailto:josephine@kentcf.org.uk) or call 01303 814 500.

[www.kentcf.org.uk](http://www.kentcf.org.uk)



**Are you interested in joining the Ashford Corporate Giving Fund?**

To find out more please contact KCF Chief Executive, Josephine McCartney using the details below:

[josephine@kentcf.org.uk](mailto:josephine@kentcf.org.uk)

01303 814 500



/KentCommunity



@KentCommunity

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**ASHFORD CORPORATE GIVING FUND**

Supporting our Local Community in Ashford



## Kent Community Foundation

**Kent Community Foundation (KCF) is one of 46 accredited local Community Foundations across the UK. We were established in 2001 to raise and distribute funding to charities and good causes across Kent and Medway on behalf of individuals, companies, charitable foundations and trusts and other organisations.**

Every year, KCF helps hundreds of local causes that provide services and support for the most vulnerable in our community, create new opportunities for the disadvantaged and transform the lives of those most in need across Kent and Medway.

KCF has an experienced outreach and grants team who ensure highly efficient grant processes and due diligence. We pride ourselves on our local knowledge, networks and wide ranging experience of community grant-making. We specialise in smaller, grassroots grants: 85% of our grants made last year were under £10,000.

An important advantage of working with a Community Foundation is the level of control and decision-making that the donor is able to retain, while taking advantage of our expertise in small grants, local knowledge and network of contacts.



## Examples of projects that received funding through KCF in Ashford:

### Ashford Vineyard Church

The Winter Night Shelter is open to the homeless of Ashford. Funding helped them buy equipment to operate for 91 nights throughout the winter months providing shelter, washing facilities, advice and meals to 78 vulnerable individuals for varying lengths of stay. All guests who accepted help were supported into housing. Five guests were supported into employment and seven to receive benefits. Seven guests were helped to access a GP for medical help. Many others were referred to other agencies according to their needs and circumstances.

### Ashford BME Association

Ashford BME Association act as a hub for the black, Asian and minority ethnic community by offering activities that would promote community cohesion and empowering and inspiring individuals to be more involved within Ashford. The grant enabled them to offer various events and projects for example 'A Womans Worth Support' group which helped women and young girls share their knowledge and experiences, learning new skills around beauty therapy and sewing. Speakers were also invited to discuss sensitive issues around FGM and domestic abuse, which led to an increased access to services and positive health and wellbeing.



### Step-Out outdoor learning, training & therapy CIC

Step-Out run programmes for teenagers who have problems with anxiety, social interaction, challenging behaviours and have got broken relationships with their parents or significant others. Two Saturdays per month, the young people have the opportunity to learn bushcraft and survival skills, to take part in outdoor woodland art projects, to learn about nature and conservation, to use tools safely and cook together and the opportunity to talk about their problems and anxieties.

## Community Need in Ashford

Voted Kent's number one business location, Ashford is one of the fastest-growing towns in Kent, with important transport links between Europe and London via highspeed rail and the M20. The town covers 220 square miles between the North Downs, Romney Marsh in the East and the Sussex border in the West.

Although deprivation scores are around average for Kent, four areas of Ashford feature in the most deprived decile for deprivation in Kent, including the wards of Stanhope, Aylesford Green and Victoria.



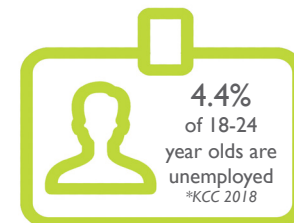
Ashford has a population of  
**127,500**  
\*KCC 2017



**492**  
homeless in Ashford  
\*Shelter 2017



Ashford is rated the  
7th most deprived  
Local Authority in  
Kent (out of 13)



**4.4%**  
of 18-24  
year olds are  
unemployed  
\*KCC 2018



10% of the UK population over 65  
is lonely all or most of the time



**28.2%** of the Ashford population  
consider themselves as disabled

**22.1% children in Ashford are growing up in poverty**

\*End Child Poverty, 2017

