Community-enterprise project in Kent

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unlocking potential effecting change

COMMUNITIES CARE

The vision: supporting people to get the help they need to live life their way

community catalysts®

unlocking potential
effecting change

- A social enterprise established in 2010, currently funded by KCC
- Kent catalysts – building on the strengths of people and communities
- Working in partnership with citizens, councils, other public sector bodies and community groups
- Helping local people set up small enterprises that offer care and support in their area
- Which means people have a real choice of great services and supports

What do we do?

Help local people:

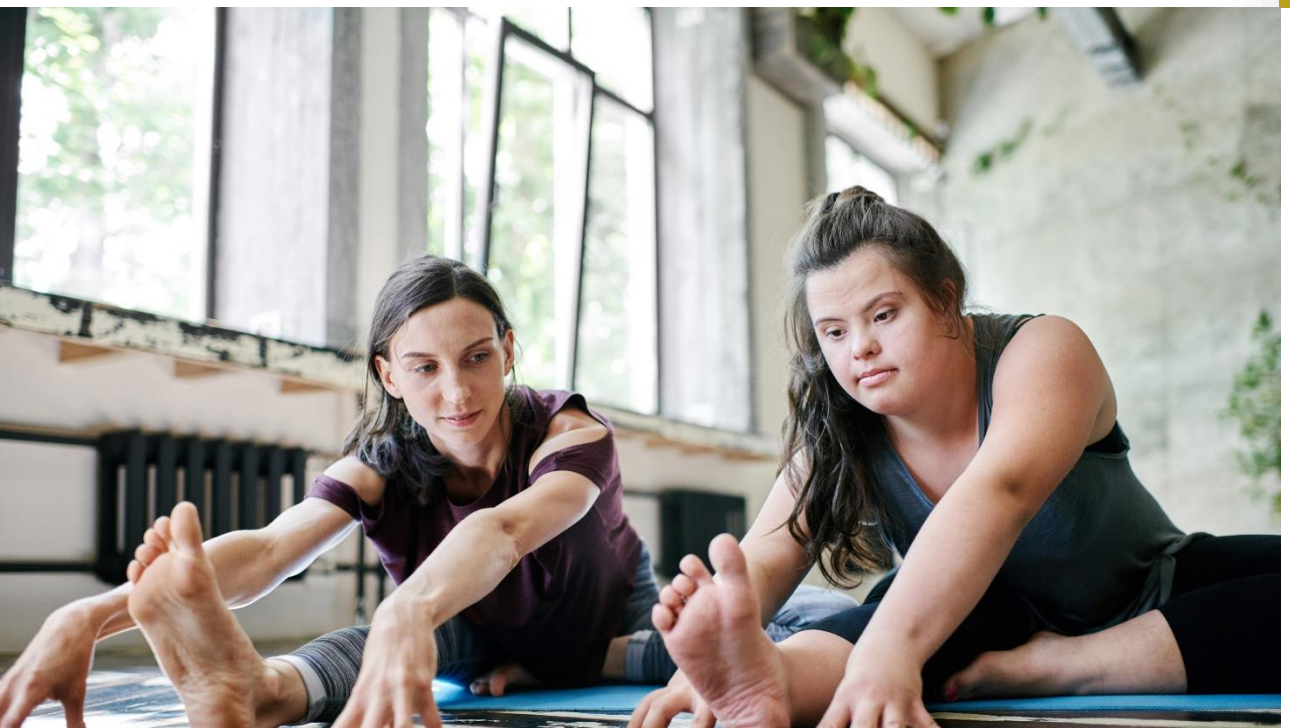
- who want to do something for their community
- to think about what they are good at
- then start their own business or enterprise

The enterprises they run offer care and support. They give older, disabled people or those with mental health challenges:

- Choice of how they get they help they need
- Control over their own lives and how they live it

We call these community-enterprises

What counts as a community enterprise?



- Run by local people providing support and services to other local people
- Work on a very small scale (eight or fewer workers – paid or unpaid)
- Are independent of any larger organisation
- Operate on a continuum of voluntary to commercial, and everything in between

What do these community enterprises offer?

People come up with all sorts of different ways to help other people.

Things like help to:

- Get out and about or go to appointments
- Have fun or do enjoyable or interesting things
- Get up in the morning or go to bed at night or…

- Have a wash or get dressed
- Cook and eat nice food
- Stay well or get well
- Keep fit and active
- See or make friends and keep connected
- Learn or relearn skills

The wider value of community enterprises

- Everything they offer is personal and tailored
- They are rooted in their communities
- They make things happen with and not for people (co-produced)
- Services and support are flexible and responsive to change
- They create real choice for people
- Often cheaper - money goes further
- Environmental benefit of everything staying local – low ‘care miles’
- Flexible work for people who find employment a challenge – like parents, carers or disabled people

Thinking wider than what is available through social care

Getting paid

- Some people who run a community enterprise offer their support for free but most need to charge
- Charging covers costs and enables enterprise leaders them to pay themselves and their workers
- Some people who need support pay a community enterprise for their services:
  - Using their own money (self-funders)
  - Using public money they control (Direct Payments)

Small Good Stuff

A website run by Community Catalysts. Does 2 things:

- Links people who need care or support with community enterprises who might help
- Helps community enterprises with information, publicity and access to a friendly network

OUR BELIEF

We're the friendly website that believes:

People want care and support at times and in ways that suit them.

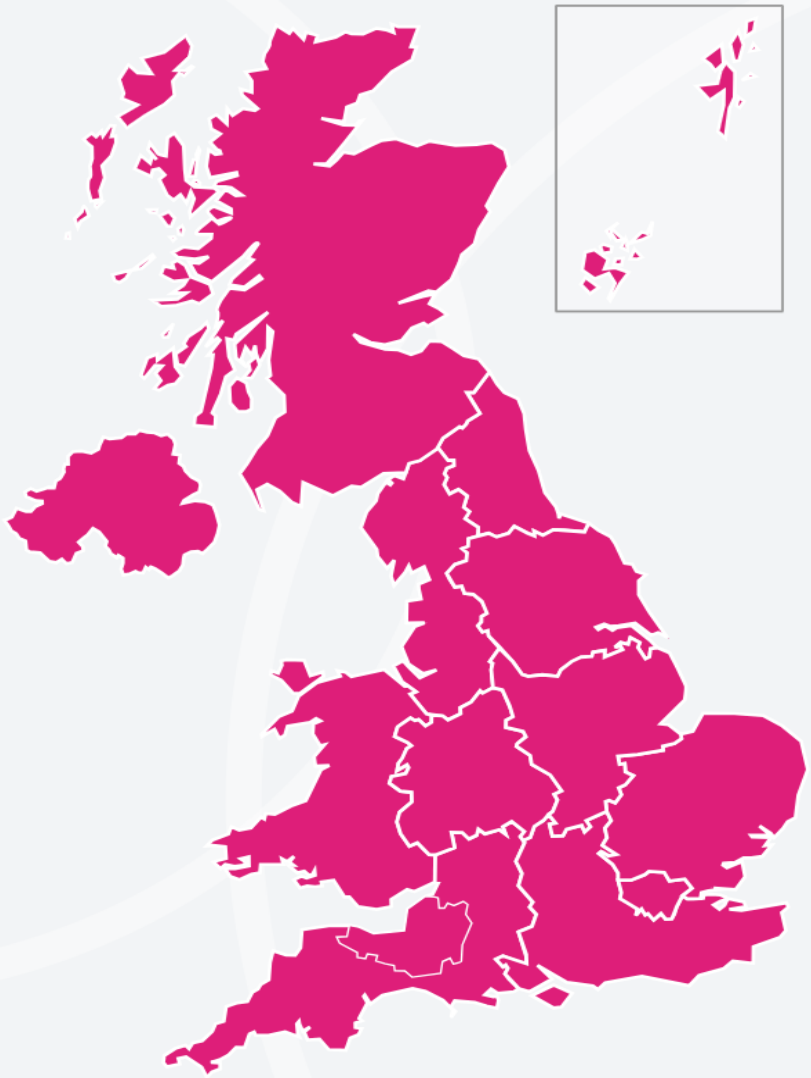
Local people helping other local people is good for everyone and for communities.

Very small organisations can offer great care and be imaginative and responsive.

Very small organisations struggle to tell people what they can offer (they don't have huge marketing budgets like the big guys).

www.smallgoodstuff.co.uk

THE DIRECTORY

Search by region

- East Midlands
- East of England
- London
- North East England
- North West England
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Somerset
- South East England
- South West England
- Wales
- West Midlands
- Yorkshire and the Humber