

Additional Business Support and governance during coronavirus

We all recognise the important role that voluntary and community sector organisations (VCSE) are performing in the Covid-19 response and the crucial contribution they are making. Now more than ever, they play a vital role in taking care of the needs of our society that are not easily covered by other sectors. The number of food banks that have developed over the last month providing a much-needed service to our communities; the on-line support forums; the telephone helplines; all as a result of the latest Covid-19 crisis.

We are pleased to announce that funding from the former East Suffolk Partnership that had been allocated to provide business planning support to the VCSE has enabled us to offer our local organisations support they need during these challenging times.

Sabrina Ward, Specialist Business Support Officer at Community Action Suffolk (CAS), is going to be providing support to VCSE Groups in East Suffolk for the next 6 months for 2 days a week. Sabrina has capacity to assist with any VCSE business support needs during this period. Some of the things Sabrina can help with are:

- Those who may need some support / advice around cash flow
- Fundraising applications
- CAS are currently developing online training which groups could be linked into.
- Setting up online forums that may be helpful for local organisations to chat with each other
- Facebook Q&A sessions

Here is the link to the CAS website outlining the support Sabrina brings with her:

<https://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk/organisation-support/specialist-business-support/>

“Our recent Covid -19 Impact Survey showed that 73% of respondents from across Suffolk do not have a Business Continuity Plan, it is therefore very likely that many organisations need some business support now more than ever. We are delighted to be able to offer this support with dedicated resource in East Suffolk through Sabrina with thanks to the former East Suffolk Partnership – please do get in touch to use the service.”

Hannah Reid, CAS Director of Innovation & Business Development

Sabrina is a great additional resource so if you know of any VCSE groups in your area that are struggling please do let your Communities Officer know where she can help.



*Sabrina Ward,
Specialist Business Support Officer,
Community Action Suffolk*