



## **Delivering social value – What it means for you?**

Growing Kent & Medway (GKM) works to deliver inclusive economic growth so that all communities in the region can contribute to, and benefit from, an uplift in regional prosperity. This is achieved through a range of engagement mechanisms.

The focus of this engagement is on raising awareness and advancing opportunity in horticulture, food and drink production and the enabling technology industries, for example, robotics, sensors and AI. For instance, social value could include raising awareness around career pathways or around nutrition and wellbeing through community engagement.

Beneficiaries of GKM grant funding programmes are asked to contribute towards these social value goals. As a condition of receiving grant funding, you will be asked to commit a certain level of time towards a social value activity within the region.

The amount of time to be committed, will be dependent upon the size of grant received. Applicants who fail to commit to delivering social value will be ineligible for funding.

We recognise that some businesses may already have in place well established mechanisms to deliver corporate social responsibility, for example, volunteering days for employees. However, for others this may be a less familiar concept and it might be helpful to think about people, skills and place, which aligns strongly with the UK Government's [levelling up agenda](#).

It is not the intention of GKM to prescribe what you do, but some suggestions are available below. You are asked to outline your plans under the 'Social Value' response in question 2 of the application form. This question is not assessed. However, GKM may wish to have follow-up discussions with you to ensure that quality and safeguarding issues are adequately addressed.

## **Delivering social value – What level of commitment is required?**

There is no fixed requirement for the level of social value commitment that any one project should deliver but any activity/ engagement must be undertaken within the Kent and Medway region.

However, as a guideline for the large grant CR&D competition, GKM suggests the following minimum commitment from each project as shown in table 1 below. We have based the suggestions on the size of grant being requested to support your collaborative R&D project. Depending on the type of activity you propose to undertake, this can be delivered by one or more partners across the project.

**Table 1 – Suggested minimum commitment for GKM large CR&D grants**

<b>Grant awarded</b>	<b>Expected minimum commitment</b>
Upto £50,000	minimum of 2 days
£50,001 to £100,000	minimum of 4 days
£100,001 to £150,000	minimum of 7 days
£150,001 to £200,000	minimum of 10 days
£200,001 to £250,000	minimum of 13 days
£250,001 to £300,000	minimum of 16 days
£300,001 to £350,000	minimum of 19 days

There is no maximum limit to social value commitments.

### **GKM grant funding – What options are available for delivering social value?**

As part of the application process we ask you to make a commitment to delivering social value and provide an opportunity to outline your plans. When outlining your social value plan we want you to describe what you plan to deliver and the impact this will have in the Kent and Medway region and on you and your team.

As a guide some examples of social value could be (but not limited to) the examples shown in table 2 below. You can choose to sign up to one of the existing initiatives presented or propose your own engagement activities. This might include working with existing community engagement activities, be it local community groups, organisations, events or initiatives to deliver social value relevant to your project/business, particularly around careers pathways, nutrition and wellbeing. You may also want to refer to the following website for additional guidance, Social Value UK <https://socialvalueuk.org>.

The social value question will not be scored but the answers provided will be considered when assessing the applications submitted. Applicants who fail to commit to delivering social value will be ineligible for funding.

GKM will monitor and evaluate the impact of the social value activities that are undertaken by the projects funded.

**Table 2 – Examples of existing programmes in the Kent & Medway area**

Option	What is involved?
<p><b>STEM Ambassador Programme</b></p>	<p>STEM Ambassadors work with young people to widen horizons and raise aspirations around STEM. This established volunteer programme is coordinated in the South East by the STEM Hub at Canterbury Christchurch University.</p> <p>STEM Ambassador Hubs offer a range of support, opportunities and local expertise. They develop links between groups and individuals to enhance young people's STEM education.</p> <p>The STEM Ambassador programme is designed flexibly to suit the needs of all organisations, large or small. Employers and Ambassadors can set the level of engagement that's right for them, and alter it to meet changing needs.</p> <p>STEM Ambassadors manage their volunteering via an online platform or through the STEM Ambassador app. This allows them to easily find relevant, local opportunities and quickly make arrangements with teachers or community group leaders.</p> <p>STEM Ambassador Hubs provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance to help employers embed the programme and achieve their intended outcomes.</li> <li>• Online STEM Ambassador induction to prepare STEM Ambassadors for their role and get them started.</li> <li>• Safeguarding training and health and safety guidance for all STEM Ambassadors.</li> <li>• Links to a range of online training resources through the training and support section of the STEM Ambassador website.</li> <li>• Insurance cover for STEM Ambassadors whilst undertaking activities.</li> <li>• A purpose-built employer reporting system.</li> </ul> <p>STEM Ambassadors usually commit around 10 hours per year to voluntary engagement. This includes travel time.</p> <p>Find out more about STEM Ambassadors visit:</p> <p><a href="https://www.thestemhub.org.uk/">https://www.thestemhub.org.uk/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors">https://www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors</a></p>
<p><b>Business Mentoring</b></p>	<p>Growing Kent &amp; Medway's tailored mentoring programme is aimed at supporting the growth of pioneering start-ups and early-stage businesses in the plant-based food and drink space.</p>

	<p>We are seeking mentors who share our vision for an exciting sustainable region, which is home to world-leading talent and innovative food and drink businesses.</p> <p>To become a Growing Kent and Medway mentor you need to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Want to make a difference</li> <li>• Be passionate about supporting people to achieve their goals</li> <li>• Be prepared to share your experiences and networks</li> <li>• Act as a positive role model</li> <li>• Have good listening skills and be easy to talk to</li> <li>• Be committed, reliable and maintain confidentiality</li> </ul> <p>Mentors will be matched with individuals from a variety of backgrounds, supporting start-ups or established businesses. We are looking for people with a wide-range of experience and knowledge.</p> <p>Full training will be provided and you will be supported throughout the programme.</p> <p>Being a mentor will involve providing a minimum of 12 hours of support to an individual business on the GKM Mentoring Programme that is being delivered by the Kent Business School.</p> <p>To find out more about the GKM Mentoring Programme visit <a href="https://www.growingkentandmedway.com/business-support/mentoring/">https://www.growingkentandmedway.com/business-support/mentoring/</a></p> <p>Or contact Rebecca Smith at the Kent Business School (<a href="mailto:R.B.Smith@kent.ac.uk">R.B.Smith@kent.ac.uk</a>).</p>
<p><b>CDIO Projects</b></p>	<p>The CDIO Initiative is an innovative educational framework for producing the next generation of engineers. It recognises the importance of close collaboration between businesses, industry and education providers. The CDIO model provides engineering students with an education set in the context of real-world systems and products.</p> <p>Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU) is a member of the pioneering international CDIO Initiative. It has embedded the CDIO framework into all its engineering and computing courses.</p> <p>Does your business have a problem that could be addressed through an engineering or technology solution? Could you give students at CCCU the opportunity to work on a real industry-led challenge?</p> <p>As a business that is setting an industry-sourced CDIO project, you would work with CCCU academics and teaching staff to develop the project brief and engage with students as they develop and present their ideas. By setting a CDIO project you will give students the opportunity to develop their technical knowledge and build their practical engineering skills, social awareness, team and project management abilities, and competences in many other fields to solve</p>

	<p>engineering problems. As a collaborating business, you will gain insights and possible solutions to your technology challenges.</p> <p>Involvement in a CDIO project would normally require 4-5 days input over two terms. Projects would start in September 2023.</p> <p>If you would like to explore the opportunity to develop a CDIO project, contact Anne Nortcliffe at the EDGE Hub, Canterbury Christ Church University (<a href="mailto:anne.nortcliffe@canterbury.ac.uk">anne.nortcliffe@canterbury.ac.uk</a>).</p>
<p><b>Nuffield Research Placements</b></p>	<p>The Nuffield Research Placement (NRP) programme provides engaging, work-based, hands-on research projects for Year 12 students. Projects provide students with the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution towards the work of a host organisation through a supervised but independent research collaboration. Projects can relate to any area of science, quantitative social science, computing, technology, engineering or maths.</p> <p>Projects are 4-6 weeks in duration and involve a 2-3 week real-world work-based placement which takes place in the Summer. Hosting a talented Year 12 student from a disadvantaged background to work on an R&amp;D project enables the student to develop their technical, practical and social skills. It can also enhance student access to STEM-related university courses, apprenticeships and careers.</p> <p>Offering a Nuffield Research Placement can help your employees to develop their mentoring, coaching and management skills. It gives you additional assistance on a research or development project and can enhance your reputation with students who could be future employees.</p> <p>Employers who are interested in supporting students through a supervised research project should contact the South East England Nuffield Regional Coordinator, Lydia Ahern (<a href="mailto:Lydia.ahern@canterbury.ac.uk">Lydia.ahern@canterbury.ac.uk</a>).</p>

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