



## **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 mechanisms, including the delivery of social value through STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and other community engagement.

The focus of this engagement is on raising awareness and advancing opportunities in horticulture, food production and the enabling technology industries (e.g., robotics, sensors, AI). For example, social value could include awareness raising around career pathways or around nutrition and well-being through community participation.

Beneficiaries of the GKM grant funding programmes are asked to contribute towards these social value goals. As a condition of receiving grant funding, your project team will be asked to commit to a certain level of STEM or other community engagement in the region.

We recognise that some businesses may already have in place well established mechanisms to deliver Corporate Social Responsibility (e.g., volunteering days for employees). However, others may be less familiar with the concept. To help these businesses, GKM have identified a range of initiatives that they can sign up to as a means of delivering their social value commitment. These are described in the GKM Social Value Framework below.

## **GKM grant funding – What are your plans for delivering social value?**

Applicants are asked to outline their plans for STEM or other community engagement under the “Social Value” (Q2) response 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.

Applicants can choose to sign up to an existing initiative described in the GKM Social Value Framework below. GKM also welcomes other ideas from applicants who wish to undertake their own engagement activities. Whichever approach you choose to take, your ideas must be outlined in your grant application.

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 projects funded through this grant competition.

## **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. However, as a guideline GKM suggests that for every £18,000 of grant requested one day of time should be committed to delivering STEM or other community engagement (this includes any travel time). Depending on the type of activity you propose to undertake, this can be delivered by one or more partners across the project. Engagement must be undertaken within the Kent and Medway region.

## GKM Social Value Framework

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>Employers can offer valuable input to the programme by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Making it a core part of their Corporate Social Responsibility and training strategies;</li> <li>• Encouraging their employees to sign up and allowing them time off for volunteering;</li> <li>• Working with the STEM Ambassador programme to create resources and activities for the education industry.</li> </ul> <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. Volunteering activity is completely flexible and is currently delivered remotely owing to COVID-19.</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 - under our policy - 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:  <a href="https://www.thestemhub.org.uk/">https://www.thestemhub.org.uk/</a>  <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>Could you be part of this exciting new initiative by becoming a volunteer business mentor?</p> <p>The free mentoring service is designed to match industry leading experts with early-stage ventures to help them achieve their visions for growth. The programme is open to entrepreneurs and SMEs in the region’s horticultural food and drink sector and the enabling technology industries.</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. As a mentor, you will receive training and support.</p> <p>Mentors provide guidance and insight into key areas of business development including leadership, strategy and market development. This might include helping businesses to explore their innovation ideas or increase their sustainability credentials. As a result of your support, participating businesses will be able to maximise their growth potential, develop skills and improve their performance.</p> <p>To find out more about the GKM Mentoring Programme 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 of 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</p>

	<p>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 engineering problems. As a collaborating business, you will gain insights and possible solutions to your technology challenges.</p> <p>There is opportunity for industry-sourced CDIO projects across CCCU's Biomedical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Product Design Engineering and Software Engineering courses.</p> <p>Involvement in a CDIO project would normally require 4-5 days input over two terms. Projects would start in September 2022.</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>