

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation: Vital Signs Placements

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) is part of a worldwide charitable network of community foundations. CCF awards grants to charitable projects undertaken in Cambridgeshire on behalf of a growing number of donors. In the year to March 2015 CCF managed over 50 donor advised funds and awarded just over £1 million in grants to 217 projects.

Vital Signs is a programme initiated by the Community Foundations of Canada and since 2013, a dozen or so community foundations in the UK, including Cambridgeshire, have taken part. The goal of Vital Signs is to “take the pulse” of our local community; to provide a sense of where we are at and where we might be going.

The last few years we focused our reports on Health and Wellbeing and Safe and Strong Communities respectively. Each of the themes is assessed in reference to a number of specified indicators. This year the Vital Signs programme will look at 12 themes, under 3 main areas (Transport, Environment and Rural Communities).

CCF is offering 2 placements (internships) for a 3 month period, to work on producing and publishing the ‘Vital Signs’ report alongside those produced by other UK Community foundations, working under the supervision of Dr Sam Weller (CCF Trustee and Chair of the Grants and Community Impact Committee) and Marion Carey (Grants Director, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation).

This work will support the Vital Signs report and inspire philanthropy to improve the quality of life for the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It will also impact the strategic direction of funding activities through enabling a dialogue on critical community issues using Vital Signs as the communication vehicle.

The successful applicant would be based at CCF’s Cambridge office and experience the everyday working environment of a dynamic and influential community foundation, and of a multidisciplinary research team.

Project outline

This year, as for 2013, our Vital Signs programme will look at 12 themes, under 3 main headings (see below). In 2014 and 2015 we focused our reports on Health and Wellbeing and Safe and Strong Communities respectively. Each of the themes is assessed in reference to a number of specified indicators.

Place	Economy	People
1. Transport	1. Work	1. Learning
2. Environment	2. Fairness	2. Health and Wellbeing
3. Rural	3. Housing and Homelessness	3. Arts, Culture and Heritage
	4. Local Economy	4. Safe Communities
		5. Strong Communities

You will be responsible for:

- Gathering and analysing existing data gathered from local and national sources, and identifying headline issues;
- Carrying out a community consultation (in the past this has been carried out through an online survey) asking for the views of local people on the positive and negative aspects of their community;
- Writing a “Vital Issues” research report including research data and community consultation results;
- Creating a Vital Signs summary report, a high level summary and visual presentation of results working with a designer.

How to apply

Please submit a short expression of interest (no longer than a side of A4) clearly outlining the following:

- Your relevant research skills, why the placement is of interest and why you think it would be beneficial to your studies and future career.
- When you would be able to take up the placement, if selected.

Please send your expression of interest to: esrcdte@admin.cam.ac.uk no later than 17.00 on Tuesday 31 May 2016.