



Chairman's Report. October 2021

Despite the rather slow recovery from COVID restrictions I am delighted to report that our roll-out into West Sussex has an established momentum with financial support from VAs in the county namely MSVA, VAAC, and Crawley. That endorsement of our aims is a great encouragement and I and my Trustees are extremely grateful.

Currently we have 23 mentors drawn from the wider community each with their own skills and experience that allows our coordinator to match the need of the mentee to the appropriate mentor. Because of the continued uncertainty of COVID transmission most if not all this engagement is by Zoom or Microsoft Teams, but we remain keen for at least the first meeting to be in person if that is possible.

To assist in Charity Mentors Sussex continued expansion we have outsourced our social media coverage, being an important means of spreading the word into the voluntary sector and allowing our coordinator time to recruit more mentors and monitor the progress of existing activity.

Fund-raising is a critical aspect going forward as our expenses though currently modest will rise with the coordinator's hours increasing to match the needs of the two counties of Sussex. Our Funding committee under the leadership of Sally-Anne Murray has been pivotal in attracting funds from several generous donors although going forward the Trustees have come to realise that professional help will be needed in the future, so on a trial basis we have out-sourced this responsibility and will monitor the success of such a strategy in the coming months. Again, this is a further cost for which we must budget.

I would like to thank Tim Hancock our treasurer for keeping a tight rein on the charity's finances, so critical as we continue to grow, and to all our mentors who provide an invaluable service with no charge to the mentee and give their time so generously. Ian Noble our coordinator deserves much praise for his efforts to increase our mentor numbers and attract new mentees thereby raising CMS's profile throughout Sussex. His responsibilities continue to grow along with our ambitions. Lastly but by no means least I am very much indebted to my board of Trustees: Martin Richards, Ken Walker, Rebecca Newby, Mark Spofforth and Tim Hancock for their collective wisdom and advice.

Chris Gebbie
Chairman: Charity Mentors Sussex