

WHY BELONG TO PROHELP?

ProHelp enables professional firms to make a difference by putting something back into their local community. Your firm is probably being asked for support on an ad-hoc basis from voluntary and community groups.

Being part of a local ProHelp will:

- ▶ Provide your firm with a source of quality pro bono opportunities
- ▶ Enable your firm to prioritise which voluntary and community groups need support and target those with the greatest need
- ▶ Give your firm the opportunity of networking with other professional firms who are committed to social responsibility
- ▶ Give the less experienced staff members of your firm the opportunity to sharpen their skills in a different environment
- ▶ Enhance your firm's awareness of economic and social issues that impact on your firm
- ▶ Give your firm a caring profile

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL PROHELP

For further information on your local ProHelp and to find out how you can make a difference please visit

www.prohelp.org.uk

To find out how you can make a difference visit our website:

www.prohelp.org.uk

Business in the **ProHelp**
Community

Professional support for the voluntary sector

Want to use your professional skills in the voluntary sector?

Business in the

Community

ProHelp is an initiative of Business in the Community

Business in the Community is a unique movement in the UK of over 750 member companies. Its purpose is to inspire, challenge and support business in continually improving its impact on society in the community, environment, marketplace and workplace.

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WHAT IS PROHELP?

ProHelp is a national network of over 1,000 professional firms each of which has offered to provide professional advice and strategic support free of charge to community groups and voluntary organisations in their local area.

Collectively, ProHelp is the largest provider of free professional support to local communities. Member firms provide £6m worth of free support each year which is delivered through 40 local groups.

WHAT SORT OF FIRMS ARE INVOLVED?

Professional firm members include surveyors, architects, consulting engineers, accountants, solicitors, consultants (management, property and IT), public relations, marketing and design agencies.

HOW IS IT MANAGED?

Each member firm affiliates themselves to a local ProHelp, which meets regularly to respond to requests for help from community groups.

Each local ProHelp has a Chairperson and a Manager responsible for identifying suitable opportunities and developing future strategies and objectives.

WHAT WILL MY FIRM BE ASKED TO DO?

Your firm will be asked to provide a specified amount of free professional support each year by undertaking one-off projects. Your firm may also like to contribute to a local advice surgery. There is no pressure to take up any assignment.

“ ProHelp opportunities not only bring real benefits to those in the community, but also gives the employees involved a sense of achievement and opens the door to a whole new set of skills which are then utilised back in their day jobs. ”

MICHAEL KELLY, DIRECTOR CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, KPMG

WHAT SORT OF PROJECTS MIGHT MY FIRM BE ASKED TO SUPPORT?

Professional firms undertake one-off assignments which include feasibility studies, structural surveys, marketing and business plans, legal and accountancy advice, property valuations, project plans, planning applications, website design, etc.

The guiding principle is that ProHelp members give their firm's time, and assignments should be treated no differently than an instruction from a commercial client.

WHAT SORT OF GROUPS MIGHT MY FIRM BE ASKED TO SUPPORT?

Community groups requesting support from ProHelp have to satisfy certain eligibility criteria, which restricts the service to those who:

- ▶ Have a track record of working with the local community
- ▶ Are locally constituted
- ▶ Are unable to pay for professional services

ProHelp does not take on audit work and does not support litigation, animal welfare or religious groups.

WHAT DOES YOUR SUPPORT MEAN TO THE COMMUNITY?

The practical advice and support offered through ProHelp is invaluable in helping community organisations achieve their goals and sustain them on a long term basis. A little support given when and where it is needed most can make a real difference.

“ Without ProHelp we would not have been able to move to larger premises or increase our work and income. ProHelp is vital for charities like ourselves. ”

DERBY FURNITURE PROJECT

CASE STUDIES

Examples of ProHelp support

▶ Norfolk ProHelp members turned a dream into reality by providing professional support to convert an old school into a local day care centre for elderly residents in the Worsted community. Civil engineers carried out a structural survey, architects drew up plans and aided the planning process, quantity surveyors provided costings for the work and an accountancy firm advised on the development of a business plan which unlocked the funding. The centre now provides day care for 50 elderly people each week and six local jobs were created.

▶ Teamwork Trust provides assembly and outsourcing services to local businesses whilst offering work-based therapy and training to members of the community who face disadvantage. When they wanted to expand their community enterprise by purchasing a neighbouring trophy centre business, they asked Northamptonshire ProHelp for support. A local law firm provided the necessary legal advice to formulate contracts, ensure compliance with the Charity Commission and amend the Trust's Articles of Association. Teamwork Trust is now able to offer a more diverse range of activities for their client base.



We went to ProHelp for support with branding, the benefits have been enormous. Not only have we strengthened our image and profile, but also increased our confidence of working with larger organisations and business. ”

JENNY HARTNELL, CREATIVE KIDS