



49 Cambridge Gardens
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Background Information for applicants to become Chief Executive for ETC Sussex and ECR Foundation designate

ETC Sussex is a small but dynamic Charity with a £600,000 plus annual turnover and is the main provider of Dementia Day Services in Hastings and Rother, plus a range of other services.

ETC Sussex developed from a volunteer run computer club for people who were digitally excluded and had various additional needs. It registered as a charity in 2012 and developed a range of digital inclusion projects. Due to needs identified by its client groups a programme of English lessons for asylum seekers and refugees was developed. Then based upon a small Food Bank provided for clients, a town centre Food Pantry was set up to support people in Food Poverty.

At the request of another local charity, with whom we had links, we took over the running of a small Dementia Day Service. This has now developed into the main provider for Hastings and Rother with provision at Marlborough House, St Leonards and at Magdala House in Rye. Clients are either self-funding or supported through Adult Social Care. A café at Marlborough House supports the Day Service and residents of Marlborough House, an extra care residential home. We have four vehicles to transport clients to and from the Day Service.

With the growth of the Day Service turnover of the Charity is expected to be around £600,000 for 2024/25. We currently employ 28 people and have 22 volunteers. The board of trustees is led by Peter Carcas who set up the charity with Helen Barraclough our retiring CEO. The other Trustees are Janice Easton, Duncan Keir, John Enefer and Viv Tate.

Due to the growth of the organisation the Trustees decided to merge into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Two other unincorporated Charities we work closely with agreed to merge into the same entity, to be called ECR Foundation. The groundwork has been laid to register the new Charity.

The other two charities are:

Hastings Area Community Trust [HACT] has its origins back to 1890 and has common heritage with many other local charities, including Hastings Voluntary Action. It provides offices for local charities at 49 Cambridge Gardens [ETC Sussex



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and Counselling Plus Community] and administers grants for people in need under the banner of Relief. Its objects are similar to those of ETC Sussex.

Sussex Housing Trust for the Elderly [SHTE] has its origins back to 1892 and HACT has nomination rights for two Trustees. SHTE was set up to hold the freehold of Marlborough House and administers grants to support the elderly in need. The permanent endowments and property of SHTE and HACT will be vested in the CIO and continue to be utilised as now. ETC has no property or endowments. All staff from HACT [2 people] and ETC will transfer to the CIO. SHTE is administered by HACT and has no staff.

The Benefits of the merger are:

By being Incorporated the Trustees have reduced liabilities.

Stronger asset base [approaching £3m]

Access to stronger revenues [estimated £700,000 pa]

Sufficient reserves [estimated £200,000] for essential building works to 48/49 Cambridge Gardens.

Fewer total number of Trustees needed in the future, compared to three charities.

Reduced administrative costs and the staff to support the organisation and its development.

The successful candidate will work with the Trustees to complete the merger. Due to the close relationships between the charities and with a joint Trustee Working Group, integration is well prepared for.

Following consolidation, the CEO and Trustees will need to determine the strategic direction of the new organisation to enable it to best meet the needs of the community. This will need to involve stakeholders, clients, staff and volunteers.

Peter Carcas
Chair