

Major Bid To Streamline Services

Social Enterprise Solutions is playing a key role in a major bid that could see £400,000 transform local support services for local charities and social enterprises in Blackpool.

The government programme called Transforming Local Infrastructure is aimed at streamlining the bodies that give out support so there is less duplication.

Partners involved in the bid include the Council for Voluntary Service, Volunteers Centre, Lancashire Learning Consortium, Citizens Advice Bureau and N-Vision.

SES is also involved in the bids being prepared in Lancashire and Knowsley.

Yes Minister



Why is Tony Carr from Social Enterprise Solutions deep in conversation with the Civil Society minister Nick Hurd MP?

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High Sheriff Plans To Tackle Unemployment

A pioneering project led by Social Enterprise Solutions could see a host of new jobs created and bring major benefits to the environment too.



Working with the High Sheriff of Lancashire, Peter Mileham, a working party is now being drawn together that can turn the idea into reality.

The newly created social enterprise would see hundreds of discarded mattresses stripped down with the material and springs then sold for scrap rather than them clogging up Britain's landfill sites.

A similar project is already reaping rewards in Skelmersdale where social entrepreneur Maureen



Fazal at Total Reuse CIC, pictured here with SES manager Tony Carr, is successfully creating employment and cutting down on waste.

Other partners keen to get involved include Blackpool and the Fylde College, Prince's Trust and A4e.

Social Enterprise Solutions One Of The Best In The UK

RBS SE Top 100 place for the second year!

Social Enterprise Solutions has once again scooped a place in the Royal Bank of Scotland SE100 making it one of the leading social enterprises in the UK.



The report, which places SES at number 54, looks at services, turnover and growth of the business. Just three other social enterprises from Lancashire made it into the 2011 report.

It recognises the work in delivering a major project to develop social enterprise in Blackpool, a partnership programme to deliver hundreds of new jobs as part of the Future Jobs and a range of innovative initiatives that the community interest company provides to local authorities, NHS bodies and other social enterprises.



PM Boost For the Welcome

One of Social Enterprise Solutions' new clients is celebrating after receiving a Big Society award from the Prime Minister.

The Welcome is a community centre which has been providing activities and vital services for the local community in Knutsford for over 15 years.



David Cameron said: "This is a fantastic example of the Big Society with local volunteers delivering services."

Social Enterprise Solutions is working with The Welcome on an Awards For All funded initiative to attract more social enterprises to be based at the centre, making it more sustainable.



Tony Carr gives his views at the national social enterprise conference, Voice 11

I'm Tony Carr...

As you can see, our social enterprise is going from strength to strength with new work opportunities and partnerships to deliver major projects.

I know many people closely associated us with the LEGL-funded project we delivered in Blackpool for four years to support social enterprises. We have maintained the network of members and meet every few months to discuss the latest issues in the sector. These hub meetings are funded by the European Regional Development Fund through our partner agency in Lancashire, Selnet.



Our vision to create Social Enterprise Towns across the country is gathering momentum, we are at the heart of plans to transform the services available to frontline civil sector organisations and we are engaged with health chiefs who are considering new ways to deliver their services.

Not forgetting the impressive accolade of being in the Top 100 social enterprises in the UK, as ranked by RBS.

This is an exciting time for Social Enterprise Solutions as the business develops and diversifies and I look forward to the opportunities to come.

A Healthy Approach To Business

New opportunities under the government's Right To Provide programme are opening up ways in which NHS staff can deliver their services.

advice and training seminars for staff to learn more about social enterprise, spin-outs and mutuals.

Social Enterprise Solutions has strong links with local health chiefs providing

Blackpool is already a leader in the field after its nurse led therapy unit became a social enterprise and now operates as Spiral CIC.

Sporting Boost For Social Enterprise

A host of sports clubs across Lancashire are considering the benefits of becoming more sustainable thanks to the Lancashire Sports Partnership.

The project, funded by Sport England, is aimed at raising awareness of social enterprise with sports clubs which are usually run by volunteers and operate

with the help of financial donations. Social Enterprise Solutions are offering development workshops under the programme.

By getting the community groups to think of themselves as social businesses with wider social ownership, there is more chance of the club being sustainable in the long term.



New opportunities are arising through a closer business arrangement with one of the providers of the government's Work Programme, A4e.

Social Enterprise Solutions regularly meet their Manchester-based team to share intelligence on future projects and forthcoming opportunities.

Manager Tony Carr says: "A4e take a pragmatic approach to solving major social issues like unemployment so I am delighted that we have a good working relationship with them."



Turning A Dream To Reality

Dozens of Social Enterprise Towns predicted across the UK in the next five years.

Key Findings

The research, undertaken by Dr Bob Doherty who specialises in social enterprise, was co-funded by the Royal Society of Arts and Natwest and delivered six key objectives that would form the basis of a Social Enterprise Town. These are:



- Carry out initial baseline study of social enterprise sector size and scale looking at numbers and total turnover of social enterprise sector in the area. This would then be repeated regularly
- Demonstrate evidence of growth in social enterprise turnover compared to initial baseline study
- Form a stakeholder group to be representative of the sector and include a representative from a local/regional public body
- Demonstrate evidence of lobbying public bodies such as Local Economic Partnerships, local and regional authorities, Chamber of Commerce, NHS and others
- Demonstrate activity and willingness to share best practice
- Promote social enterprise and the Social Enterprise Mark by devising and implementing 12-month media plan

Interested Parties

Social Enterprise Solutions had the opportunity to brief the sector minister, Nick Hurd MP, at the national social enterprise conference, Voice 11. More work will now be done to get high level backing to the Social Enterprise Town initiative.

The concept has benefited from a groundswell of support from the sector and beyond. Val Jones at Social Enterprise North West and Liz Tapner from Social Enterprise Lancashire, Selnet, have championed it across the region. Meanwhile the head of Cooperatives UK, Ed Mayo, is keen to work together as he sees synergy with some of his projects. So too is Lucy Findley at the Social Enterprise Mark Company. We are also grateful to Natwest and the Royal Society for Arts for their enthusiasm and financial support.



An idea, sparked by an off-the-cuff remark in 2008, looks set to revolutionise the social enterprise sector.

And the dream of creating Social Enterprise Towns, which is being driven by Social Enterprise Solutions, now has a great deal of support that is helping to make it into a reality.

Recent developments in the launch strategy include:

- Briefing Civil Society Minister, Nick Hurd MP, on the concept in London
- Publication of a major study by Liverpool Hope University into what should constitute a Social Enterprise Town
- A high level steering group workshop to refine the research held in Garstang – the world's first Fairtrade Town
- High profile support for the initiative from Peter Holbrook, Social Enterprise UK and Ed Mayo, Cooperatives UK



There are similarities with the Fairtrade Town movement and Social Enterprise Solutions is delighted to working with Bruce Crowther, the pioneer of Fairtrade Towns. However, the public's awareness of social enterprise is much lower that Fair Trade was at the outset of the Fairtrade Town movement. Lessons need to be learned from both Fairtrade and Transition Towns to make this initiative successful.

Get involved

The report is available to download from www.socialenterprisetown.org and the team at Social Enterprise Solutions is always keen to hear new ways to help roll out the Social Enterprise Town initiative. Call 01253 344123 or email tony@socialenterprisesolutions.co.uk



Great Welcome At the Grand

Blackpool's iconic Grand Theatre is to benefit from a business assistance programme which has been delivered by Social Enterprise Solutions and funded by the European Regional Development Fund, ERDF.

The Grand Theatre is one of Blackpool's largest social enterprises and was looking for advice and support to take the business to the next level.

Social Enterprise Solutions worked with the team at the theatre to look for areas of the business that could improve and identified a training need among the customer-facing volunteers which is now being delivered by Blackpool and the Fylde College.

The ERDF Business Assist programme is administered in Lancashire by Selnet.



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund
Investing in your future

A New Way Of Working

A new initiative to get employment-related social enterprises to work together is being spearheaded by Social Enterprise Solutions.

The Assisted Employment Network sees like-minded firms from Accrington, Blackpool and Knowsley sharing experience, undertaking joint ventures and sub-contracting work to each other.

Dennis Langley, director at Social Enterprise Solutions, said: "Sometimes social enterprises have to give work away because of capacity issues or they don't have the necessary skills. The Assisted Employment Network ensures that the work can pass to another social enterprise and that way everybody benefits from the opportunity."

Cleaning Up In Social Enterprise

Older people across Blackpool and the Fylde can now access a range of services from Age UK which are run as social enterprises.

A new cleaning service will help the 50s to keep their homes spotlessly tidy.

The local branch of the national charity, formerly Age Concern, have been helped over the last four years to develop a portfolio of enterprises that trade for the social good.

These include a service for people who struggle to get out of their own homes to go shopping, which has extended to take in the whole Fylde Coast, that operates in four ways: personal shopping, assisted shopping, online shopping and group shopping.

Terri Sawkill, senior manager for social enterprise at Age UK, said: "All three of our social enterprise services follow a very robust model of operation, a business model that ensures that once the initial pump prime funding finishes, the project can continue for the clients. With the fees generated from these services going back into the pot, this allows development and evolution of the services."



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