

Cumbria SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Working in partnership to strengthen Social Enterprise in Cumbria



Issue 3, April 2009

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New opportunities for 2009-2010

Congratulations to the eight Cumbrian social enterprises who won awards at our recent conference. We were really impressed with the quality of all applications and a big thank you to all who entered but didn't win an award - without you we wouldn't have been able to hold the event.

We are entering a new financial year for the partnership which will bring exciting opportunities for social enterprises in Cumbria. We will be recruiting a new coordinator and expect the post holder to start work in June. We are also in the process of developing a new tender brief for a programme of work that will deliver direct support to Cumbrian social enterprises. If you have suggestions about what type of support CSEP should be delivering to the social enterprise sector, please let us know. Finally, look out for our Invitation to Tender. It will be advertised in The Chest - the government's initiative to implement e-procurement - for more information see page 4 of this newsletter.

Viv Lewis

Director, SECOD (Social Enterprise & Cooperative Development Ltd)
Vice Chair, Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership

Learning from each other in tougher times



75 delegates attended this year's lively and stimulating CSEP Conference, which took place on Thursday, 26th March at Theatre by the Lake in Keswick.

The conference was chaired by Alston Moor social entrepreneur Daniel Heery, who set up the award winning community owned co-operative Cybermoor in 2002. Craig Dearden-Phillips, founder and CEO of Speaking Up, author of the "Naked

Entrepreneur" blog and one of the Cabinet Office's 30 Social Enterprise Ambassadors, gave an insightful, informative and amusing true story of how he 'half succeeded'. Val Jones, Chief Officer of Social Enterprise North West regaled the audience with stories about her experience of developing arts and cultural social enterprises in Merseyside. She also outlined new opportunities for social enterprises in Cumbria funded through Social Enterprise North West. Paul Dodson, Chair of CSEP spoke of future developments for CSEP including plans to recruit a part-time coordinator to support the sector in Cumbria.

You can view copies of the speakers' presentations on the CSEP website if you were unable to attend the conference.

... and last but not least, the conference hosted the first CSEP award ceremony— full details on the next page.



Does public sector commissioning and tendering matter to you ?

You are being invited to take part in the largest survey to date of social enterprise collaboration and tendering in the North West of England.

To take part complete our simple online survey at www.selnet-uk.com/survey.htm. You can also use the link to download the survey to complete by email or post.

A few moments of your time will help grow the future of social enterprise in our region. We are inviting responses from all social enterprises, support agencies and commissioners.

The survey has been commissioned by Social Enterprise Lancashire Network (SELNET) on behalf of all regional and sub-regional social enterprise networks in the North West.



The quality of the applications received for the awards was extremely high and it was particularly difficult for the judges to decide on clear winners in some of the categories. Above all, the applications received demonstrated the passion of all the people involved in the organisations and their commitment to be better than the rest !

More information about the awards and the winners can be found on the CSEP website.

[Representatives from all the award winning organisations and sponsors pictured left.]

AWARD WINNERS

New Social Enterprise of the Year	Co-operative of the Year	Environmental Social Enterprise of the Year	Community Enterprise of the Year	Existing Social Enterprise of the Year
Sponsored by CSEP	Sponsored by Penrith Co-op	Sponsored by CSEP	Sponsored by the Development Trusts Association	Sponsored by CSEP
Winner: North Allerdale Development Trust Runner-up: Fit 4 Life Gym	Winner: Whitehaven Credit Union Runner-up: Moody Baker	Winner: Lazonby & District Swimming Pool Runner-up: ECO-op	Winner: Kirkgate Arts Runner-up: Ambleside Parish Centre	Winner: Whitehaven Credit Union Runner-up: Lazonby & District Swimming Pool
Winner: £300 Runner-up: £100	Winner: £300 Runner-up: £100	Winner: £300 Runner-up: £100	Winner: £1,000* Runner-up: £100 * in the form of training	Winner: £300 Runner-up: £100



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE NORTH WEST Making a difference in the North West

JOIN US for the First North West Social Enterprise Trade Fair 'In Business for Good'

**16th June 2009
Aintree Race Course**

A showcase and celebration of North West Social Enterprises. Kevin Brennan MP Minister for the Third Sector has now been confirmed as a key note speaker.

Don't miss your chance to find out more about the increasing opportunities for social enterprises and to participate in essential learning and trading experience.

Delegate fee: Social Enterprise & Voluntary Sectors £60.00 + VAT. Exhibition & sponsorship opportunities available.

Further information and booking details can be found at www.senw.org.uk or by phoning the SENW Trade Fair office on 0151 708 3931 or email info@senw.org.uk

Are you interested in exhibiting? SECOD are planning to take a stand, do you want to join them? Or even better shall we have a Cumbria section at the event? Please get in touch with Bill Knowles, Email bill@secod.coop or phone 01697 3501010. If there is sufficient demand we will organise a mini bus from Cumbria, so please let us know if you are coming.



SENW represents the interests of the North West of England's social enterprise sector and works with local, regional, national and trans-national bodies to strengthen the sector. It's Chief Officer, Val Jones, has worked within the sector for over 20 years and its directors include representatives of social enterprise networks from across the region.

SENW has recently secured a regional portfolio of projects supported by Capacitybuilders, which includes:

- Peer to Peer mentoring

To help experienced social enterprises to support others and help connect them on a collective level. For more information Email val.jones@senw.org.uk

- Financial Diversification

To help social enterprises that are inclined to be reliant on one or a few income streams. For more information Email liz.tapner@selnet-uk.com

• Catalysing Consortia

To meet a need identified through consultation regarding the lack of consortia procuring contracts as a source of income. For more information Email liz.tapner@selnet-uk.com



Would you like a chance to showcase your organisation to a much wider audience ???

Val is currently working on a large exhibition stand and rather than just have logos of each of the sub-regions, she would also like to include a photograph representing a social enterprise. "Photos I am looking for need to reflect the region they come from - I would rather have people than buildings, but scenery is fine." The winner would then be promoted at all the regional, national and international conferences that SENW will be attending in the future. Photos need to be sent

Seminar & Networking Events

"a good morning, really informative with lots of variety and lots of opportunities to share good practice"

35 people from social enterprises all round Cumbria attended the "Staying Solvent ... Staying Legal" seminar and networking events held at three different social enterprises – Centre 47 Carlisle, South Lakes Society for the Blind and the Kirkgate Community Arts Centre.

Staff from the host social enterprises gave really informative, inspiring 'warts and all' guided tours of their social enterprise. This friendly relaxed atmosphere encouraged a lively exchange of ideas and good practice between the visitors and hosts.

After the tour Dave Hollings from CMS told the audience about recent changes to Company Law. Bill Knowles of SECOD gave a presentation on how to stay solvent in these difficult times.

These events were organised by SECOD on behalf of CSEP.

You can watch [Kate Hilton of the Kirkgate Community Arts Centre in Cockermouth on YouTube](#) talking about being a social enterprise and how the organisation has turned round its fortunes.



'Lessons in social enterprise' DVD

A new short DVD featuring five Cumbrian social enterprises accompanied by case study material was premiered at the CSEP conference and describe how each social enterprise has embraced new opportunities and dealt with new issues that have arisen. These social enterprises demonstrate some of the breadth and diversity of social enterprises currently based in Cumbria.

The five social enterprises, all members of the Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership, are:

- Carlisle Credit Union who have moved to high street premises to become more visible, reach more people and improve the sustainability of their business.
- North Allerdale Development Trust recently acquired two properties in Wigton transferred from Allerdale Borough Council and plan to be the regeneration hub for North Allerdale.
- South Lakes Society for the Blind bought two businesses that fit well with their mission in order to improve their long term financial sustainability.
- West House, a large charity working with people with learning difficulties has invested heavily in recruiting and training staff to deliver its core values.
- Soundwave, the home of Cumbria Youth Music Action Zone is now independent from Cumbria County Council, which has given them the freedom to be more entrepreneurial.

We would like to congratulate Kerry Kolbe of Signal Films who produced the film for winning a prestigious 'Enterprising Young Brits Award' in the Social and Community Category.

A few copies of the DVD are still available, please e-mail enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org for a copy.

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

We value your feedback and would like to hear from you about what you would like to see in future newsletters and also about what support and training your social enterprise needs.

The Chest

Are you interested in delivering public sector contracts in the North West? Are you registered with The Chest?

If the answer is YES to the first question, and NO to the second, then you should check out www.thechest.nwce.gov.uk - it's part of the government's initiative to implement e-procurement. You can register free to an electronic system which will allow you to tender for public sector contracts. Benefits include:

- Make buyers aware of your presence.
- Receive Pre-Qualification Questionnaires, Requests for Quotes and Invitations to Tender electronically.
- Submit your quotations and tenders electronically almost instantly. You just need an internet connection and an email account.
- Reduce your paper and associated printing costs.
- Benefit from proven added security and knowledge that your submission has been delivered.

Real Help for Communities:
Volunteers, Charities and
Social Enterprises

NORTH WEST ROADHOW Bolton, Bolton Holiday Inn Tuesday 28th April

Following the publication of the £42.5 million action plan 'Real Help for Communities', the Office of the Third Sector is holding 9 free regional road shows for small and medium frontline third sector organisations to provide a practical understanding of how to access the support available.

These FREE all day events will involve a combination of presentations, workshops, networking opportunities, a Q&A session, signposting to further support. and includes lunch.

Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis and are strictly limited to one person per organisation.

For more information see the [Office of the Third Sector](#) website.

Understanding & Using an Outcome Focus

How much do you know about the effects of your organisation's work?

Would you like to know more about outcomes? Are your funders asking about outcomes monitoring? If so, you will definitely be interested in this 2 day training course.

This course will take place on **Tuesday 19 May** and **Tuesday 30 June 2009** from 10am to 4pm at Carlisle Carers Association Resource Centre.

The course will be delivered by Viv Lewis of SECOD (Social Enterprise and Cooperative Development Ltd), an Outcomes Champion.

To find out more about the course call Viv Lewis on 01931 713335 or Email viv@secod.coop

The cost of this course is £45 for CVS members, £65 for other Third Sector organisations and £90 for all other Sectors.



CabinetOffice
Office of the **Third Sector**

**For more information about any of the events and projects featured in this newsletter
Email enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org or Tel. 0845 3313360**