

# Cumbria SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP



Working in partnership to strengthen Social Enterprise in Cumbria

Issue 2, January/February 2009

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## Facing the Challenges of 2009

Happy New Year and welcome to the second Partnership newsletter. This newsletter provides information on a number of events and opportunities available through the Partnership. I hope that the support the Partnership is providing will help members with the economic challenges to be faced in 2009.

The Partnership itself is looking to provide more in 2009, but it is important to remember that partnerships are only as strong as the sum of their parts and one of the key aims of the new programme is to strengthen the networking element of the Partnership, to develop benefits and invigorate the membership. The attendance and feedback from the seminars and workshops held so far has been good and there will be further opportunities at other events being held over the coming months, culminating in the major networking and awards event in March. This event will be an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Cumbrian social enterprises and also to look forward to the ongoing development of social enterprise in Cumbria.

To assist in taking things forward, the Partnership Steering Group have agreed to appoint a Co-ordinator, whose job it will be to promote social enterprise across the County and champion the cause with partners. The Co-ordinator will also become the first point of contact for the Partnership. We hope this will help to strengthen the Partnership and increase the profile of social enterprise in Cumbria.

**Here's hoping that 2009 is a good year and that Cumbrian Social Enterprise can rise to the challenges it brings.**

**Paul Dodson** - Economic Programmes Manager, Cumbria County Council  
**Chair of Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership**

## Could you host and support our new staff?



**The Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership** will soon be recruiting at least one staff member. Whilst this person will be employed by Cumbria County Council, we would like to find a social enterprise who could host them and possibly either provide admin support or also host an admin worker. This would, naturally, be an income generating opportunity for the host organisation.

If you are able to do this, and would like to register an interest in doing so, please let us know what you could offer by 13th February.  
Please send details by Email to [enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org](mailto:enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org)



**Learning from each other** .... we hope to make the event **a day to be inspired**, with opportunities to network and learn what's going on in the social enterprise world in Cumbria, the North West and nationally.

- 📖 Hear about **the best in social enterprise in the North West**.
- 📖 Find out **what the Partnership can do for you**.
- 📖 **Be switched on** - get insights from Guest Speaker Claire Dove, one of the leading lights in the social enterprise sector, Claire is one of the [Cabinet Office's Social Enterprise Ambassadors](#), Chair of the [Social Enterprise Coalition](#) and CEO of the [Blackburne House Group](#).
- 📖 Watch the **premier of a new short film about social enterprise in Cumbria** and hear from the social enterprises featured in the DVD.
- 📖 ... and of course find out **who are the winners of the FIRST Cumbrian Social Enterprise Awards!**

There are five categories in the awards and organisations can apply for more than one category if they meet the criteria. There is lots to gain from applying and telling us what you have achieved, including great prizes for the winners and runners-up.  
**Completed applications must be received no later than 5pm on Friday, 27th February.**

<b>AWARD CATEGORIES</b>				
<b>Existing Social Enterprise of the Year</b>	<b>New Social Enterprise of the Year</b>	<b>Co-op of the Year</b>	<b>Environmental Social Enterprise of the Year</b>	<b>Community Enterprise of the Year</b> Sponsored by the Development Trusts Association
Sponsored by CSEP			Sponsored by CSEP	
Winner: £300 Runner-up: £100	Winner: £300 Runner-up: £100	Winner: £300 Runner-up: £100	Winner: £300 Runner-up: £100	Winner: £1,000* Runner-up: £100 <i>* in the form of training</i>
You will have been trading for 3 years or more and you need to show us why your business is ahead of all the rest.	You will have been trading for less than 3 years and you need to show us why your new business is an award winner.	Tell us how you have benefited your members, grown your business and invested in your staff.	Tell us how your business is successful as a Green Champion in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• waste re-cycling</li> <li>• energy saving</li> <li>• eco-buildings</li> <li>• green technology</li> <li>• an eco-innovator</li> </ul>	You should be community based, owned and managed. Tell us how you are involved in building partnerships and alliances; engaging in economic, environment and social regeneration; responding to the needs of the community.

**For more information about the Awards and Conference and to receive an application pack Email [awards.event@socialenterpriseincumbria.org](mailto:awards.event@socialenterpriseincumbria.org) or Tel 0845 3313360**

# CSEP Networking Events held so far ....



## CSEP Mentoring Scheme Event

Co-operative and Mutual Solutions organised an informal networking event for mentors and mentees at Eden Foyer on 12th November. The event was an opportunity for potential mentors and mentees to get together, to find out about the CSEP mentoring scheme and also hear from two experienced social enterprise managers who have been mentors: Keith Fitton (ex. Director of Westhouse) and Alan Black (ex. Manager of Salterbeck Alliance for Community Enterprise).

The event was attended by over 25 people and has resulted in 5 mentoring relationships being setup.

Anne Cartner from CMS says *"Business mentoring has proven to be an excellent way of passing on skills and experience, as well as encouraging both personal and organisational development"*

## Community Gyms Event

Co-operative & Mutual Solutions held a networking event on the 27th January at the Wave In Maryport to build a Cluster of like minded community gym and sports providers from social enterprises around Cumbria.

The aim was to network and share good practice ideas to help their business, explore new ways of cooperation and of course meet new friends involved in the sector.

All those who attended welcomed the benefits and opportunities of developing an ongoing relationship and they have already organised their next event scheduled for the week commencing 2 March, which they hope will be hosted at the Sands Centre in Carlisle with guest speakers from the Carbon Trust.

If you would like more information about joining this clustering group or would like to attend the event in March, please get in touch with us.

## Health & Social Care Enterprise Event

Social enterprises and NHS staff met at Penrith Co-op on 20th November to gain a greater understanding of how they could work together in 2009.

Social enterprises in the health and social care sectors met in the morning to identify common issues and potential ideas for collaboration and then over lunch, Cumbria NHS staff explained their roles and how the commissioning process worked.

The event helped to clear up some confusion on commissioning and the definition of a social enterprise. More importantly, it demonstrated that there was enthusiasm on both sides to look at new ways of working in a more "joined up way." The only drawback was that there was not enough time to explore all the issues in depth! The group are keen to meet again and hope to organise a follow-up event soon.

A full report on the event can be downloaded from [www.alstonhealthcare.co.uk/events](http://www.alstonhealthcare.co.uk/events)

**To book a place on either of the events below or to find out about future networking and clustering events Email [enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org](mailto:enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org) or Tel 0845 3313360**

## DON'T MISS .... Forthcoming CSEP Events for February



### Networking & Seminar Event

- Visit a leading social enterprise and find out how it's run.
- Learn how to stay solvent in this time of economic uncertainty.
- Ensure you stay legal by understanding the current changes in Company Law.
- Do business and network with other social enterprises on the day.

Venue: **The Kirkgate Centre, Cockermouth**  
Date: **Wednesday, 4th February**  
10am to 2pm (lunch included)

### Community Buildings Event

Managers, board members and trustees of organisations which own/run community buildings are encouraged to attend.

It will be an opportunity for building managers to learn and exchange ideas on such issues as maximising the asset and income generation, legal responsibilities, building maintenance, etc The event will be facilitated by Jez Hall.

Venue: **The Oval Centre, Workington**  
Date: **Friday, 27th February**  
10am to 2pm (lunch included)



## Latest news from the HUB2



### 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 Hub held a social franchising workshop on 20<sup>th</sup> November for Social Enterprise Day. The event was facilitated by Keith Richardson of Social Franchising UK and was attended by social enterprises from West Cumbria. Participants heard from social enterprises involved in a whole range of activities, including recycling, health and social care, community renewables, childcare and employment opportunities for people with a disability (Le Mat Hotel chain). Gareth Nash from CMS said: *“Social franchising is a relatively new way of growing or starting a social enterprise by collaborating with organisations with a proven track record and brand. It is literally a business in a box!”*

The Hub recently funded a feasibility study by CoRE North West into establishing a cluster of energy farms in North Cumbria. It is proposed to use slurry, manure, silage and food waste to create electricity using an anaerobic digester (it is believed that the first digester was built by Sir William Lawson at Blenarhasset). The digester will rid farmers of the problem of slurry, transforming it into liquid fertiliser. As well as creating electricity, it will also produce heat which will then be used to heat chicken sheds and other farm buildings.

The Hub has also recently had new social enterprise enquiries from Millom to Wigton (and everywhere in between). They have helped to form two new businesses: Soldiers in Silloth (Museum) and the Inspiration Factory, a co-operative of personal and business coaches.

To contact the Hub, Email [anne@thehub.coop](mailto:anne@thehub.coop) or Tel 0772 5246434



### 10th & 11th February - Birmingham

Whether a **seasoned social entrepreneur** or **new to social enterprise**, **Voice09** is a **must-attend event!**

Voice09 is your chance to enjoy the largest interactive exhibition of its kind in the UK, showcasing the best of social enterprise and providing educational and networking opportunities, as well as free business advice.

David Cameron will open Voice09 with a keynote speech on the 10th and Liam Byrne, Minister for the Cabinet Office, will open the plenary on the 11th.

There will be a number of seminars addressing pressing issues and a range of prominent speakers including national and international experts on social enterprise and senior politicians.

For more information see [www.voice09.org](http://www.voice09.org)



North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce

### 12th February - Preston

This **free event** is a timely opportunity to network, discuss common challenges and opportunities and meet face to face with the key players in the Social Enterprise arena.

The event will begin with a welcome from Donna Edwards, Operations Director at Business Link Northwest, sponsors of the event, who will speak about the role and support Business Link has to offer social enterprises across the region. Lord Mawson, one of the UK's leading social entrepreneurs - described as **'The Richard Branson of the Social Sector'** will deliver a key note address.

The workshops will provide an opportunity to discover more about social enterprise from tendering made easy, loans for small businesses, to tips on thriving and surviving for social entrepreneurs.

To book your place at this event, please contact Carol Parker Email [carolp@lancschamber.co.uk](mailto:carolp@lancschamber.co.uk) or Tel 01772 653 000.

### Social Enterprise North West Trade Fair

### 16th June - Aintree

SENW will be holding the **1st North West Social Enterprise Trade Fair to showcase and celebrate the diversity and strength of the social enterprise sector** within the north west. to demonstrate the increasing opportunities for social enterprises in light of the recent economic crisis.

The event will promote networking, collaboration and inter-trading, and will provide an essential learning experience for all who attend. It is aimed at existing or potential social enterprise practitioners and buyers and suppliers of goods or services to the social enterprise sector.

High-profile speakers from the sector will be there, alongside an agenda of workshops and business to business opportunities.

To find out more information about the event, contact Val Jones SENW Coordinator, Email [val.jones@senw.org.uk](mailto:val.jones@senw.org.uk)

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For more information about any of the events and projects featured in this newsletter Email [enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org](mailto:enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org) or Tel. 0845 3313360