

Cumbria SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Working in partnership to strengthen Social Enterprise in Cumbria



Issue 4, July 2009

Inside this issue:

Members' News

2

Welcome to another CSEP newsletter. Our big news is that we are recruiting for the CSEP Co-ordinator. The job advert will be in the newspapers next week, so please look out for it and encourage your friends and colleagues to apply. The closing date for applications is 22nd July. This is an important and exciting post., as the Co-ordinator will promote social enterprise across the county, champion the cause with partners and be the first point of contact for the Partnership.

Accredited Social Enterprise Training Opportunities

3

We also have more information on the new Social Enterprise Mentoring Programme which will provide training to gain an Accredited Level 5 Award. On 17th July we will be hosting the first training session of this new region-wide mentoring programme from Social Enterprise North West.

Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership Manager

3

What are your views on the purpose of social enterprise? Is it to provide a social good, or is it to promote a model that keeps wealth in the hands of communities? We give you some insights into a division between two of the leading lights of social enterprise.

What is the purpose of social enterprise?

4

Finally, we want your views on what CSEP should be doing to support the sector in Cumbria and would appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete and return the short questionnaire which will be emailed to all members in the very near future.

Funding News

4

Viv Lewis

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

1st North West Social Enterprise Trade Fair



Cumbria had two stalls at the NW Trade Fair held at Aintree Racecourse on 16th June - a joint CSEP and Secod stand and Alston's Cybermoor community owned enterprise. Although the Cumbrian contingent was few in numbers, many people came to talk to us and were impressed with the range and diversity of social enterprises in Cumbria (as they should be!). We had a good day out, took part in some interesting debates, learnt more

about what is going on in the rest of the region and look forward to an even bigger and better trade fair next year. We will lobby to have it located nearer to Cumbria so that more Cumbrian social enterprises have the chance to attend.

"Individual social entrepreneurs rarely get the chance to meet and discuss ideas with their peers and I hope new partnerships have been formed and new ideas have been discussed that will make the sector even stronger and more sustainable."

Val Jones, Chief Executive Officer at Social Enterprise North West

Sustainability through Financial Diversity Workshop

Eleven delegates attended the workshop at the offices of the Carlisle Carers Association on 11th June. The two presenters from Accordant Enterprise Partners CIC based the content of the workshop on the results of their recent research into Financial Diversity within the sector and informed the delegates on routes to acquiring additional income streams. There was a good level of interactivity and discussion in the workshop, with delegates offering useful insight into their own experiences of income generation activity to the rest of the group. Results from the evaluation sheets were very positive.



What do you want from CSEP?

Over the next few weeks we will be asking social enterprise colleagues what they want from the Partnership. We will be sending out a short questionnaire survey to all members and we need your views to enable us to develop a programme of support that meets your needs. So please spare a few minutes out of your busy schedules to reply to the questionnaire when you receive it. Many thanks in advance.



Members' News



It's always good to find out what other social enterprises are up to, especially if it's about new and expanding services. If you have some exciting news you'd like to share with other members, then why not email us and we'll publish it in the next newsletter!

Café West opens in Whitehaven

West House opened their new café in Whitehaven's town centre on 5th May. Café West is situated in the centre of the town's pedestrian zone at 56 King Street and is housed in a beautiful old building that has been refurbished to the highest standard keeping many original features, including a glass topped wishing well. The old yard has been incorporated into the main building by making a glass roofed atrium that is three floors high, which gives the café a light, airy feel as does the second entrance on Strand Street and the open gallery that overlooks the atrium.



The décor and attentive, friendly front of house staff offer a wonderful eating experience in a very relaxed environment. The gallery displays and sells a range of unique hand made pottery and cards as well as paintings and preserves produced by the people we support. The café is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10am till 3pm and serves a selection of delicious, high quality, local dishes using locally sourced produce. All food including bread, cakes and scones are freshly made every morning by our chef and his assistants. So don't forget to pay us a visit the next time you're in Whitehaven!

West House provides a range of community-based, high quality support services to people with learning disabilities living in West Cumbria and Carlisle.

For more information contact Margaret Miller Tel. 01900 67777 or Harry Burgess Tel. 01946 598969

Second Carlisle 'Op Shop' opens its doors

Carlisle Church of England Diocese opened its second 'Op Shop' in Morton on 16th June. The new shop is the next step in their experiment to offer church support direct to communities through a chain of recycling shops. These social enterprises offer great value, good quality, recycled clothing, toys, books and bric-a-brac, as well as comfy seating and space to have tea, coffee and conversation. People will be invited to eat food purchased from nearby suppliers in the Op Shop cafe areas.



It is hoped to develop Op Shops as access points for a range of other community services including debt support/credit union, family, parenting and bereavement support. Through their support from local churches, Op Shops will offer the opportunity to explore faith and spiritual questions and help individuals make requests for prayer and other support at times of need. The surplus from any trading will be invested in the local community.

The pilot programme at St James Op Shop assisted their employment of a Youth Worker and Community Worker. Members of the community are invited to help Op Shops develop. Any expressions of interest most welcome.

There has been an Op Shop at Denton Holme for some years and the opening at Morton is coupled with the significant expansion of that shop this month. There are also plans to open other outlets over coming months.

Greg Abbott, Manager of Carlisle United FC who opened the shop said *"Faith and football both add huge value in the coherence and enjoyment they can each bring to a community. Many areas need this initiative and I wish it great success. Carlisle United would like to emphasize its community support by encouraging this excellent idea."*

Jon Greenwood, Op Shops Development Manager, said, *"It would be great to see the Morton Op Shop become as special a place as the St James Op Shop is, with its community focus and range of volunteers having great fun and offering the whole breadth of Christian community support."*

For further information contact Jon Greenwood (Manager, Op Shops) Tel. 07523 778723 Email enquiries@opshops.co.uk or John Libby (Op Shops Steering Group) Tel. 01228 515639 Email john.libby@stjamescarlisle.org.uk

Accredited Social Enterprise Training Opportunities



Peer to Peer Mentoring

Social Enterprise North West is delivering a major programme, supported by Capacitybuilders, to help businesses work together, work smarter and work sustainably. The programme will offer mentoring training to managers in social enterprises across the North West.

Are you an experienced Social Enterprise Professional?

Do you want to join the Management Mentoring Programme?

If the answer to both these questions is **YES**, then we want to hear from you. An initial workshop meeting on the programme is taking place on Friday, 17th July at Eden Rural Foyer in Penrith. This Accredited Level 5 award will develop the Mentoring Skills of Social Enterprise Professionals who can then pass on their knowledge, experience and skills to others.

Do you need a Mentor?

Would your organisation benefit from support from a professional skilled Social Enterprise Mentor who will share their knowledge, experience and skills with you?

Email enquiries@socialenterpriseincumbria.org to register your interest in the programme and to reserve a place on the workshop on 17th July.

Diploma in Business Support

Social Enterprise Lancashire Network (SELNET) and Bootstrap Enterprises are pleased to offer this training and development course for professional business advisors working within a social enterprise.



It is now a mandatory requirement to gain entry onto the register of Business Support Practitioners, that you undertake a recognised qualification or award in business support.

The Diploma in Business Support accredited by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI) will allow you to gain entry onto the Register as a specialist Social Enterprise Advisor.

The course is part-funded through Capacitybuilders and delegate places are available at a discount of more than 50%.

For more information and to apply contact Liz Lapner, Network Manager at Selnet
Tel. 01772 521020
Email liz@selnet-uk.com



Don't forget to check our News & Features page on the CSEP website for details and more information about forthcoming events and other sector news.



News & Features

WANTED! ... Advocate for Cumbrian Social Enterprise

Social Enterprise Partnership Manager

The Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership is a constituted body working with some 400 social enterprises across Cumbria. Its aim is to grow a dynamic and sustainable social enterprise sector and to help to contribute to an inclusive and growing Cumbrian economy. The Partnership is now looking for a motivated and enthusiastic person to advocate for the social enterprise sector and lead a programme of activities. The location of the post within Cumbria is to be confirmed.

This is a strategic role, and the post-holder will be confident at championing the social enterprise sector both within Cumbria and with regional partners. The successful applicant will have a proven ability to develop and implement projects, and will be used to working with partners at a senior level. Must be able to demonstrate excellent communication and interpersonal skills, and possess a clear understanding of economic development and the issues facing the social enterprise sector.

For an application form and further details Tel. 01228) 223480 Email recruitment@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Please quote Job Reference No: POSN016336 EN

Salary: £27, 573 – £29, 714 pro-rata (0.6FTE) 22 hours per week

Fixed Term to 31 March 2010

Closing date: 22 July 2009

Interview date: 3 August 2009

RESEARCH REQUEST

Paul Halfpenny (WiganRecycles and TogetherWorks) is working on a Social Enterprise Masters dissertation. Paul is keen to gather as many examples of social and environmental accounting from around the region as possible.

It's not important that your organisation does account for "sustainable development" – it might be the case that some of your existing indicators might easily be extended to measure some aspect of sustainability – but the initial phase of the research will try and capture some data on what social enterprises are currently measuring.

If you complete social or environmental accounts and you're willing to share them with a researcher, could you contact Paul by emailing him on paul.halfpenny@phonecoop.coop

Is the purpose of social business to provide a social good, or is it to promote a model that keeps wealth in the hands of communities?

That's the question causing division between two of the leading lights of the social enterprise movement: Jonathan Bland, chief executive of the [Social Enterprise Coalition](#), and Liam Black, a founder of and former ambassador for the coalition.

Bland believes it is not enough to persuade existing businesses to conduct themselves in a more ethically and socially aware way. Instead, he says, the social enterprise movement needs to persuade the whole country to take up more social models in the future.

But Black has criticised the Social Enterprise Coalition for "losing its way" and concentrating too much on promoting a model rather than a motive. He believes it would be more useful if it were to encourage all entrepreneurs to run their businesses in an ethical fashion. He says it was a strategic error to limit the definition of social enterprise to a business that has both a social purpose and limits on profit distribution written into its constitution. "The important thing is to get people creating wealth in a social way" he says. "Many private entrepreneurs want their businesses to create social value, and the social enterprise movement should be setting an example. But instead it's locked itself into a little ghetto."

Black says the coalition appears to want to wait until the sector is big enough to create a tipping point. "But there are only 50,000 or so social enterprises, and the model is difficult to grow," he insists. "Its strategy is not a good strategy, and it won't work."

Strong words indeed but what do you think?

Return to Work Capital Grant

You have probably heard about 'The Return to Work' programme, which offers support to clients who are long term (6 months plus) incapacity benefit claimants helping them become ready to access the job market. **But did you know the programme also offers additional support specifically for Social Enterprises in the form of the 'Return to Work Capital Grant'?**

This grant offers up to £15,000 of capital funding to social enterprises who can offer a permanent job opportunity (same requirements as the wage subsidy) to an individual who meet the requirements of the Return to Work programme. The RTW delivery partners can also help you to find the right person.

The grant is for capital funding in relation to business development, thus creating a new job. Two example projects are (i) a social enterprise requiring a grant for the upgrading of a building to create office and meeting space, and requiring a Building Manager/ Caretaker as a result, (ii) a social enterprise requiring a new vehicle and thus employing a driver.

The RTW programme also offers help to employers to:

- find staff with the skills and training they need
- offer a wage subsidy for the first few weeks of work (which must be 16 or more hours per week)
- offer ongoing support to both employee and employer during this period.

For more information contact Caroline Powney
Tel. 01228 226753 or Email. caroline.powney@cumbriacc.gov.uk

Social Enterprise Investment Fund open

The Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF) is now open for applications. The fund provides loans and grants to social enterprises which improve the quality of health and social care for local communities.

The fund is managed by Futurebuilders in partnership with Partnerships UK, on behalf of the Department of Health. SEIF provides investment to help new social enterprises start up and existing ones grow and improve their services. The fund works to support social enterprise in the delivery of innovative health and social care services.

Social enterprises that can apply to SEIF include:

- Multi-agency partnerships, particularly voluntary and community groups wishing to use their expertise to provide services across health and social care.
- Existing social enterprises looking to expand into health and social care.
- Groups of professionals, such as nurses or therapists, seeking to form a social enterprise to deliver their services using the 'right to request'.

The first step is to check eligibility on the Department of Health website at www.dhs.gov.uk

To make an application, or for more information Tel. 0191 269 2276 or Email socialenterprisefund@futurebuilders-england.org.uk



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