



Social Enterprise Network - Terms of Reference

Background

Social Enterprise is an ever growing section of the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). *'In the UK alone, there are 70,000 social enterprises, contributing £18.5 billion to the UK economy and employing almost a million people. This exciting movement is growing fast all around the world and we're seeing a boom in start-ups being launched that combine doing business with doing good.'* ([Buy Social](#); December 2014)

'Social enterprise' has no legal meaning. In fact at least 60% of all Charities would also fall under the social enterprise category. Social enterprise is a concept defining how you manage your business - it is about being socially aware and often not-for-profit, whilst generating income through trading goods and services.

From socially aware individuals with an entrepreneurial spirit to large organisations trading as their main source of income, there is plenty of activity going on in Southwark covering a range of expertise, experiences, and complimentary services – all with one thing in common, providing a public good or service to the community.

Community Action Southwark (CAS) has identified a need for peer support and learning and networking opportunities aimed more specifically at social enterprises and entrepreneurs.

Aim

To promote, support and foster social enterprise activities in Southwark and surrounding boroughs, particularly in the voluntary and community sector.

The Network aims to strengthen, improve and promote entrepreneurship in the voluntary and community sector and to provide an environment which enables the social enterprises and entrepreneurs to operate more effectively.

The Network will:

1. Be a beacon for social enterprise in Southwark – providing inspiring examples and speakers;
2. Bring together individuals and organisations to share information and best practice, and to discuss issues and formulate solutions;
3. Bring increased awareness of the range of support available for social enterprises/entrepreneurs;
4. Ensure that appropriate support is available to established and emerging social enterprise services;

5. Work to develop and enhance entrepreneurship in the voluntary and community sector in the borough;
6. Seek to maximise opportunities to enhance sustainability, including funding, commissioning, trading and innovative income generation approaches;
7. Be a collective voice, bringing issues faced by Social Enterprise to the attention of the Council and other statutory bodies;
8. Provide a space to develop formal and informal collaborative arrangements i.e. mentoring arrangements, sharing premises, writing a joint funding bid/proposal
9. Work with the Local Authority and other statutory and private sector partners to develop multi-agency partnerships;
10. Develop and respond to policy and strategy development on issues relating to social enterprise and entrepreneurship affecting voluntary and community organisations in the borough;
11. Advocate for statutory policies and practices that support the entrepreneurial interests of the voluntary and community sector.

Membership

- Membership is open to voluntary sector social enterprises/entrepreneurs in Southwark and surrounding boroughs
- Representatives of London Borough of Southwark and other partners are welcome to attend the meetings to provide support to the Network.

Meetings

- The Network will meet quarterly;
- Places to be booked via Eventbrite.

Expectations of the Network

This network aims to be run by social enterprise, for social enterprise. There are therefore some expectations on members to:

- Attend as regularly as possible;
- Keep in contact between meetings;
- Suggest agenda items;
- Shape the future of the Network.

Support from CAS

CAS will provide the following support:

- Administrative support to organise the meetings;
- The venue;
- Organise agenda items and speakers;
- Facilitate meetings;
- Provide follow-up information after each meeting;
- Provide a monthly newsletter for the Network;
- Be available for 1:1 support as required.