



Keeping House & Social Enterprises

Local, flexible, domestic services

information sheet 1

What is Social Enterprise?

The UK Government defines and describes social enterprise in the following way:

“A social enterprise is a business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to deliver profit to shareholders and owners”.

A more simple definition is:

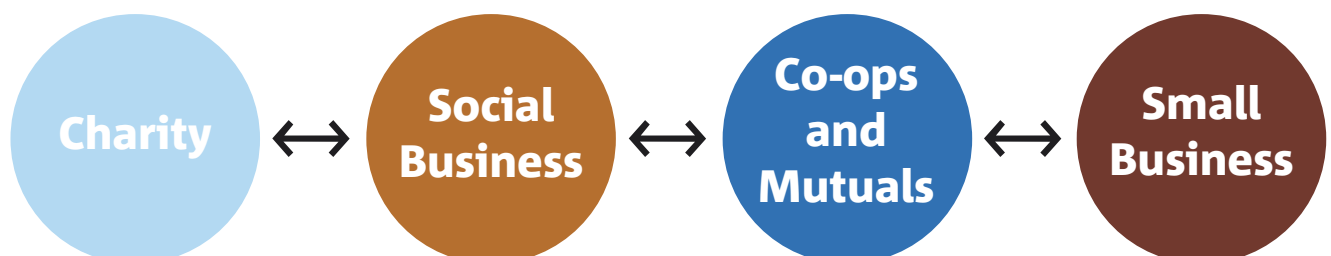
“A social enterprise is an organisation that trades in the market for a social purpose”

(Social Enterprise Coalition, 2003)

Sometimes social enterprises are described as ‘not-for profit’ or ‘not-for-private-profit’ organisations, as any profit or surplus generated is used to further the social objectives of the business.

Social enterprise re-emerged in the 1990s but it is in fact a form of business with a history longer than that of the corporate sector. The role social enterprise plays in helping to create a strong, sustainable, inclusive economy by using business solutions to create public good is increasingly being recognised and it is a growing sector.


This diagram shows how social enterprises are placed between charitable organisations and the private sector:



New Economics Foundation, 2001



Social Enterprise... an idea that's growing



Social enterprise brings together a number of different types of ventures which share three common characteristics:

- * **Enterprise orientated** – they seek to be viable trading concerns
- * **Social aims** – they have explicit social aims such as creating jobs, training or providing local services
- * **Social ownership** – they are autonomous organisations with a governance and ownership structure based on participation by stakeholder groups
(SEL, 2002)

The term **emerging social enterprise** is used for voluntary organisations making the transition to having an enterprise orientation and for social enterprise start-ups.

Examples of social enterprises include: charities' trading arms; community businesses; social businesses; co-operatives; credit unions; development trusts; employee-owned businesses; intermediate labour market companies; and housing associations.

(See also the Keeping House information sheet 2 'Social Enterprise – Legal Structures')

Contacts

To find out more about getting advice, support or a grant towards setting up a social enterprise:

Keeping House consultants:

Moira Halliday & Rob Greenland – Social Business Consulting
Tel 0113 257 3942 • email: kh@socialbusinessconsulting.co.uk

For more information on Keeping House in general please contact:

Carol McGrath, Keeping House manager

Tel 0113 247 7995 • email carol.mcgrath@leeds.gov.uk

For general business support for your social enterprise contact:

Leeds Business Link Social Enterprise:

Louanne Roberts, Leeds WYSE Link Adviser

Tel 0845 641 3515

Or visit the website at www.businesslink.gov.uk

To see the latest information please see the website:

www.keepinghouse.org.uk

There is also some information on the Leeds City Council website. Go to:

www.leeds.gov.uk and type 'keeping house' in the search bar

If you work within Leeds City Council please see the LCC intranet:

select 'k' on the site index and follow the links.



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