

Social Enterprise Development

Overview

Shared Future is a social enterprise with a mission to support other social enterprises.

We offer support on a one to one basis on any aspect of social enterprise. We also have our own delivery model, called **Lattice Works**, which offers a whole host of approaches to help a town, city, district grow new and existing social enterprises.

Before coming together to form Shared Future in 2009 our five-strong team of directors worked together in the social enterprise field for many years. In partnership with our experienced associates, we understand how to deliver sparkling social enterprise development programmes, which become embedded within the local community.

We know that social enterprise doesn't exist in isolation. We help fledgling community benefit organisations and social entrepreneurs build those key links as they become established. We think it's the best way to help others achieve that delicate balance between people, profit and planet.



We supported the North Lancashire Social Enterprise Festival , a celebration of social enterprise that ran over many years.

Find out more about our
Lattice Works programme
at www.laticeworks.co.uk



Case study: North Lancashire Social Enterprise

Shared Future helped to grow a vibrant network of North Lancashire social enterprises and social activists, who came together to promote all social enterprises in the district. Established in 2007, NLSE was an independent not-for-personal-profit network, open to all, without political or other affiliations. However it found it a challenge to attract public sector funding. That's where we could help.

While NLSE initially struggled to develop, with the support of Shared Future it grew in size to reach over 100 organisations, and developed a well regarded website offering links to free resources and profiles of its members. It also ran a number of successful social enterprise festivals in the district. That helped raise the profile of social enterprise locally and was largely responsible for the decision by Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership to run a £120,000 programme of support for social enterprises. Following a competitive tendering process the programme, which we called LatticeWorks, ran over three years, coordinated by Shared Future and delivered in partnership with HelpDirect,.

The principle on which the NLSE Network was based was guided by the following value statement, which Shared Future helped draft:

"Finding solutions to social and environmental problems through sustainable trading based on community ownership, co-operation and mutual support. We celebrate the value of inclusion, social justice. self-development and equal opportunities for all."

Testimonials

Our support combines real world approaches and a sound grasp of theory: expert knowledge of what works in a range of different circumstances. Underpinned by SFEDI recognised business advice tailored to the requirements of individual social enterprises.

"Your training set us off on the right foot, and we are now a registered Community Interest Company"

Yellow Jigsaw CIC

We're happy to share our own extensive networks and thereby help people connect to others who share their social and environmental values. Our focus on peer support and development means that the community as a whole is strengthened through the intervention, rather than becoming reliant on a short-term initiative that then leaves a gap on completion.

"Speaking with Jez at Shared Future was a real eye-opener for us. He helped structure our ideas in a very skilful way, and advised us how our cooperative might grow. He was generous with his time, and clear with his advice. His expertise has been invaluable. Thank you!"

Anca Ionescu, Director, RICOL Ltd



Successful social enterprises are at the heart of their community. Making the right connections is essential and through doing that we help social entrepreneurs succeed.

The added value provided by using Shared Future

Lattice Works is Shared Future's multi-faceted approach to encouraging and developing new social enterprises (SEs) within a specific area.

Lattice Works is made up of several different types of support:

- Seedlings: One to one tailored support for new social enterprise start-ups;
- Pip: Using a participatory budgeting format to distribute small investments to develop new services or products to generate future income;
- Thrive!: Enterprise training for social enterprises;
- Action Learning: Collaborative peer-to-peer learning and problem solving programmes;
- Crowdfunding: Online platforms to leverage in additional funds.

Could Lattice Works be delivered in our area?

Ours is a tested and highly effective model for public bodies to both support the growth of local social enterprises, and distribute start up social investment. We can deliver it anywhere, but only with your support.

Through our directors and associate pool we:

- Sit on the boards of other social enterprises;
- Work in the public sector, the private sector, higher education and the social economy;
- Carry out research with Universities and support knowledge exchange programmes;
- Have managed charities and 'not for profits' of all sizes and worked at an international level;
- Undertake pro-bono development work and voluntary activity, both within our role at Shared Future and in our own communities.

Contact us

To find out more about our work on Social Enterprise contact Shared Future CIC on:

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