

East End Housing Associations Regeneration Forum

Theme: Social Firms

Feedback Report May 18th 2006

Report

The theme for the Forum on the 18th May 2006 was Social Firms. The event was open to agencies and HA's alike. A total of 30 people attended. The speakers were Colin Campbell, Network Development Manager, SENSCOT and Jane McBride, Victor Willis both from Shettleston HA's Community Enterprise-Upkeep.

The focus for the evening was to give attendees some background on the principles of Social Enterprise and to hear from one organisation that has developed their own Social Firm whose main aims are to reinvest their surpluses into the business or their community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profits for shareholders and owners.

Presentation One: Colin Campbell, Network Development Manager, SENSCOT

Colin gave a brief overview of SENSCOT and the types of Social Enterprise and its definition. The types of Social Enterprise include:

- Charity Trading Arm
- Community Business
- Co-operative
- Credit Union
- Development Trust
- Employee Owned Business
- Intermediate Labour Market

The whole concept of Social Enterprise is being recognised as a separate sector after a debate in the Scottish Parliament. As a result it fits with the Scottish Executive Strategy with an actual Social Enterprise Strategy being developed at present with a launch sometime in 2006. A consultation process is currently being undertaken by Communities Scotland and the sector.

Findings from research covering the whole of Britain suggest Social Enterprises are important to the economy:

Generate £18 billion in annual turnover

Employ 775,000 people

82% of turnover is trading income

33% of social enterprises derive their income from Health and Social Care

Over 50% of social enterprises are located in the 40% most deprived areas

What is Sencot?

Sencot was started in 1999 to create peer – group support network coverage for social innovators, so that they could inform, encourage and support each other.

The organisation has three main areas of activity:

- Electronic Services
- Service Development
- Network Development

Contact Details

Colin Campbell
Sencot Network Development Manager
54 Manor Place
Edinburgh
EH3 7EH
Tel 0131 220 4104

Email : colin@sencot.net

Web : www.sencot.net

Presentation Two: Jane McBride, Victor Willis, Shettleston Community Enterprises – Upkeep

Jane and Victor gave an overview of Upkeep and its conception through to actual social enterprise.

Upkeep is the trading name of Shettleston Community Enterprises Limited, the wholly owned subsidiary of Shettleston HA.

Upkeep undertakes six key areas of work under a commercial service contract that has been negotiated with Shettleston HA.

These include:

- Environmental Maintenance
- Close Cleaning
- Window Cleaning
- Void Clearance
- Void Cleaning
- Graffiti removal
- Special ad hoc assignments

The organisation meets the criteria of Social Firms Scotland that says 33.3% of the posts are filled by people who are disabled / disadvantaged within the labour market. In the near future, the firm intends to offer volunteering opportunities, including placements to people who are not yet at the stage of applying for permanent employment.

Future diversification includes:

- Handyperson service
- Recycling (furniture, glass, tins etc)
- Grass Cutting
- Landscape maintenance
- Decanting work
- Painting and decorating

The company adheres to 9 values:

- The pursuit of excellence
- High quality customer care
- Collaboration
- Inclusiveness
- Reliability
- Responsiveness
- Equality
- Focus
- Additionality

Future Ambitions

- Develop, grow and expand the social firm's business turnover and range of good quality services
- Achieve and maintain sustainability, produce a strong income stream and re-invest any surpluses generated
- Create more job opportunities for local residents
- Produce more jobs for socially disadvantaged or disabled local people
- Create volunteering opportunities and job placements
- Produce a strong reputation for 'value-for-money'
- Keep exploring all viable commercial possibilities
- Consolidate and encourage our great UPKEEP Team

Contact Details

Victor Willis, Community Business Manager

UPKEEP

Shettleston Community Enterprises Limited

1222 Shettleston Road

Shettleston, Glasgow G32 7PG

Tel: 0141 764 3793

Fax: 0141 764 3743

Email: Victor@shettlestoncommunityenterprises.co.uk

www.upkeepglasgow.org.uk