



**Social Enterprise NI**

## *Social Enterprise Supports 2016*

*Thinking of starting a Social Enterprise but don't know where to begin?  
This document sets out the main forms of local support you can access  
to help you set up and grow your Social Enterprise.*

## Councils

Responsibility for social entrepreneurship transferred to councils through Local Government Reform, therefore each of the 11 councils should provide support to new and growing social enterprises. Only three of the councils, however, have specific programmes dedicated to Social Enterprise; Ards and North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council and Mid Ulster District Council.

### *Ards and North Down Borough Council – Social Entrepreneurship Programme*

The Ards and North Down Social Entrepreneurship Programme is aimed at helping potential social entrepreneurs to start a business and encourage existing social enterprises to grow, create additional employment and maximise their positive impact on society.

Groups already in the voluntary and community sector will also be assisted to become social enterprises through this initiative.

#### **For further information contact:**

**Helen Lunney, Work West, 301 Glen Road, Belfast BT11 8BU, by e-mail [helen@workwest.co.uk](mailto:helen@workwest.co.uk) or Karine McGuckin at SIGNAL Centre, or email: [karine.mcguckin@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk](mailto:karine.mcguckin@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk)**

### *Belfast City Council – Go Social Programme*

The Go Social programme uses innovative approaches to find and explore new ideas that could support budding social entrepreneurs to develop a new social enterprise or cooperative. It gives access to:

- social spark events
- tailored workshops
- one-to-one mentoring
- showcasing opportunities
- networking with like-minded people

#### **For more information, please contact:**

**Economic Development Unit on (028) 9027 0482, or email [economicdevelopment@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:economicdevelopment@belfastcity.gov.uk)**

### *Mid Ulster District Council – Mid Ulster Social Enterprise Programme*

The programme, commissioned by Mid Ulster District Council and being delivered by Workspace Enterprises Ltd, offers a package of support to charities, community, voluntary and development groups to help them move towards generating their own income by setting up a social enterprise.

Testing the feasibility of a new business idea, assisting with applications for funding for a new business idea, updating the organisation's business plan to progress a new idea and sourcing additional funding or finance to resource the proposal will all be part of the tailored programme for pre-start and emerging enterprises.

Existing social enterprises can also avail of the opportunity to develop their capacity and sustainability.

Selection takes place on a competitive basis as places are limited.

#### **For more information on developing a social enterprise, please contact:**

**Michelle Clarke, Workspace Enterprises on (028) 7962 8113, or email: [michelle@theworkspacegroup.org](mailto:michelle@theworkspacegroup.org)**

## Social Enterprise Hubs

Social Enterprise Hubs are part of a pilot project managed by the Department for Communities (DfC), the Department for the Economy (DfE) and Invest NI. The hubs offer support for new and emerging social enterprises, services include:

- potential shop front retail space
- hot desking facilities
- conference/meeting rooms
- training suites
- general workspace – from where social economy businesses can operate on a ‘test-trading’ basis

All potential social enterprises can avail of free workshops, training and mentoring one to one support. There are 11 hubs located in Northern Ireland, the table below provides their locations and contact details.

Town	Contact Details
<b>Ballymena</b>	Ecos Centre, Broughshane Rd, Ballymena, BT43 7QA T: (028) 2565 0989 E: <a href="mailto:northern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">northern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>Derry/Londonderry</b>	14 The Diamond, Londonderry, BT48 6JA T: (028) 7127 7270 E: <a href="mailto:northwestern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">northwestern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>Lurgan</b>	45 Market Street, Lurgan, BT67 9BG T: (028) 3898 5710 E: <a href="mailto:southern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">southern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>Lisburn</b>	4-6 Market Place, Lisburn, BT28 T: (028) 9266 3983 E: <a href="mailto:southeastern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">southeastern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>Downpatrick</b>	Grove Shopping Centre, Downpatrick, BT30 6LZ T: (028) 4483 9532 E: <a href="mailto:southeastern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">southeastern@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>Strabane</b>	1&2, 8C and 8D Railway Street, Strabane, BT82 8EF T: (028) 7188 0234 E: <a href="mailto:western@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">western@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>Enniskillen</b>	Clinton Centre, Belmore St, Enniskillen, BT74 6AA T: (028) 6634 2806 E: <a href="mailto:western@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">western@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>North Belfast</b>	Units 1&3, 52 York Street BT15 1AS T: (028) 9560 9521 E: <a href="mailto:northbelfast@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">northbelfast@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>South Belfast</b>	Unit 9 & 6, 127-145 Sandy Row BT12 5ES T: (028) 9032 9205 E: <a href="mailto:southbelfast@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">southbelfast@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>West Belfast</b>	Unit 5 Blackstaff Stop, 129 Springfield Road, BT12 7AE T: (028) 9023 1605 E: <a href="mailto:westbelfast@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">westbelfast@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>
<b>East Belfast</b>	14, 16 & 16B Castlereagh Road BT6 9AP T: (028) 9045 5835 E: <a href="mailto:eastbelfast@socialenterprisehub.co.uk">eastbelfast@socialenterprisehub.co.uk</a>

For further information, contact the Social Enterprise team at Invest NI on 0800 181 4422 or [socialenterprisehubs@investni.com](mailto:socialenterprisehubs@investni.com)

# Enterprise Agencies

## *LEDCOM – Social enterprise support*

LEDCOM has actively helped start up and develop over 250 social enterprises in Northern Ireland. From 2006 LEDCOM has acted as Northern Ireland Manager of the Invest NI Social Entrepreneurship Programme.

The knowledge and experience gained within this field, has given LEDCOM the ability to design, and develop bespoke programme and solutions to the needs of social enterprises with includes all key areas of development including: idea development, business planning, feasibility studies, governance development, financial management, sourcing financial resources, HR, market research, exporting, social auditing and social return on investment, social impact measurement, marketing and PR, environmental, tendering, engagement with stakeholders, costing, pricing, strategy development and management and leadership.

**Contact Audrey Murray for more information on (028) 2826 9973 ext. 213, or email [audreymurray@ledcomwbp.org](mailto:audreymurray@ledcomwbp.org)**

## *Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency – The Social Spark Programme*

The Social Spark Programme is a tailored intervention to helps third sector organisations that have the capacity, capability and ambition to develop an innovative growth social enterprise idea, start it and grow it. the programme incorporates 6 phases, from an analysis of the organisation's starting point to creating a business plan and exploring investment options.

**For more information contact Stephen McClelland on [smcclelland@nmea.net](mailto:smcclelland@nmea.net), or visit [http://www.nmea.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=44&Itemid=52](http://www.nmea.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=44&Itemid=52)**

## *Work West – Social Enterprise Development*

One of Work West's strategic priorities is to support social enterprises to start up and grow. Work West has been supporting social enterprise development for 27 years. With a Social Economy Village which offers workspace, office and conference facilities Work West offers the full package to aspiring social enterprises.

**Contact Work West on (028) 90 610826, or email [info@workwest.co.uk](mailto:info@workwest.co.uk)**

# Organisational Support

## *Social Enterprise NI*

Social Enterprise NI is the voice for Social Enterprises and Social Entrepreneurs in Northern Ireland. It provides a central meeting point for social enterprises in Northern Ireland to collaborate, share knowledge, information and best practice to create real social change.

**To enquire about membership, please contact Amanda Johnston on (028) 9046 1810, or email [membership@socialenterpriseni.org](mailto:membership@socialenterpriseni.org)**

## *Invest NI*

Invest NI offers advice and support to all new business start-ups in Northern Ireland. It also provide advice and signposting services to Social Enterprises.

Visit <http://www.investni.com/start-a-business/support-for-social-enterprises.html> for further information

## *Entrepreneurial Spark*

Entrepreneurial Spark offers a six-month programme for entrepreneurs looking to either start a business or expand their existing business free of charge.

As part of the programme, a specialist enablement programme for all successful applicants is offered. This includes; specialist mentoring, internal and external events, investment opportunities, pitching to make you and your business 'Backable, Investable and Credible'.

Entrepreneurial Spark is partnered with Royal Bank of Scotland, NatWest, Ulster Bank, KPMG and EMC. New businesses are accepted twice a year, in February and August.

To apply go to <http://www.entrepreneurial-spark.com/>

## *UnLtd*

UnLtd brands itself as the leading provider of support to social entrepreneurs in the UK. UnLtd resources hundreds of individuals each year through its core Awards programme.

UnLtd operates a unique model by investing directly in individuals and offering a complete package of resources; from awards of funding to ongoing advice, networking and practical support.

## *Do it awards*

The do it awards offer three stages of support for Social Enterprises, these are 1-to-1 support, expert advice and access to resources.

For more information, visit <https://unltd.org.uk/doi/>

## *Young Foundation*

The Young Foundation works to support social ventures to become sustainable and impactful, offering advice on setting up, investing in, or procuring services from organisations that do social good.

It works with social entrepreneurs and ventures by providing support and finance. There are currently three key support programs:

- The Accelerator – Supporting ventures with skills to secure social investment, contacts or funding and increase their social impact
- The Transition Project – A light-touch version of the Accelerator

- The Young Academy – supporting early-stage social ventures working in the field of education to realise their potential

**To find out more about the Venture Team, please get in touch with Rowena Young at [Rowena.Young@youngfoundation.org](mailto:Rowena.Young@youngfoundation.org) or visit <http://youngfoundation.org/our-teams/ventures/>**

## Nesta

Nesta is an innovation foundation with a mission to help people and organisations bring great ideas to life.

It is dedicated to supporting ideas that can help improve all our lives, with activities ranging from early stage investment to in-depth research and practical programmes.

Nesta also offer some funding, there are three different types of support available - through grant funding, direct investment or challenge prizes.

**Visit <http://www.nesta.org.uk/get-funding> for more information.**

## Finance Options

### NI Business Loan Fund

The NI Small Business Loan Fund will provide typically unsecured loans to individuals, private companies and social enterprises in the SME and micro enterprise size range, in the start-up and growth phases of development.

Loans are available for individuals, private companies and social enterprises in the SME and micro enterprise size range, in the start-up and growth phases of development.

There is a maximum loan amount of £15k to start-up enterprises, with potential for follow-on lending up to a maximum of £50k. Existing businesses can apply for loans of up to £50k. Mentoring support will be offered where loans of less than £15,000 are availed of.

Finance can be provided for:

- Working Capital: money required to meet the day to day costs of running the business
- Development Finance: money required to expand the business, for example marketing

- Commercial Premises – (deposit, costs of moving, improvement)
- Plant and Machinery – (deposit, tooling, installation, training)
- Intangible Assets – (patent costs, IT software and licenses)
- Gaps in funding working capital where commercial funding sources (e.g. overdrafts and invoice finance) cannot provide the full requirement
- Increasing sales, new contracts
- Stock Purchases
- International Trade

**For more information, visit <http://www.nisblf.com/>**

## UCIT

Ulster Community Investment Trust (UCIT) is a charity which provides loans exclusively to other third sector organisations such as community groups, charities, sports clubs and social enterprises in Northern Ireland.

**For more information, visit**  
<http://www.ucitltd.com/>

### Typical loans

UCIT lends exclusively to Community organisations, charities and social enterprises, both large and small, located in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Borrowers include Faith-based initiatives, Sports Clubs, Training initiatives, Childcare schemes, Housing associations, Community transport schemes, rural development projects and many more.

Finance is available for buildings and equipment, working capital, cash shortfalls, bridging finance against delayed grants or other confirmed income and restructuring of debt.

UCIT loans typically range from £25,000-£500,000 +

**The UCIT lending team can be contacted on (028) 9031 5003.**

## Building Change Trust Loan Fund

UCIT are now able to provide a new loan fund for community groups, voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises. The scheme, which is being funded by Building Change Trust and managed by UCIT, provides small, unsecured loans ranging from £1,000 to £25,000. The loans can be used for a wide range of purposes, including buildings and repairs, purchase of equipment, making facilities more energy efficient or funding shortfalls in larger grant assisted projects.

**Further information about the scheme is available by contacting UCIT on Tel:( 028) 9031 5003.**

### Housing Executive – Social Housing Enterprise Strategy 2015 – 2018

The Housing Executive has created the **Social Housing Enterprise Strategy** to provide financing and resource support to develop the local social economy and create community-owned social enterprises. It's aimed at Social Enterprises and offers grant support, commercial property and vacant garages available at nil rent.

There are five levels of funding available to encourage more social entrepreneurship, ranging from education grants to established businesses.

**For further information, email**  
[socialinvestments@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:socialinvestments@nihe.gov.uk).

### For more information:

**Please contact: Social Enterprise NI, c/o Business in the Community, Paulett Ave, Belfast BT5 4HD**  
**T 028 9046 1810 E [info@socialenterpriseni.org](mailto:info@socialenterpriseni.org)**