

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

WHAT IS A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



What is Social Enterprise?

SE's are businesses that trade for an environmental or social purpose. Charities that trade, Community Interest Companies, Community Amateur Sports Clubs, as well as asset-locked private companies can all be social enterprises. If an organisation makes income via trading, has its social mission enshrined in its governing documents and has an asset lock – it's a social enterprise! SE's are different from traditional voluntary and community groups, because they are not reliant on grant funding. **SE's ideally make over half of their income through trading.**

For a social enterprise, their social or environmental mission is the reason they exist – it's woven in to what they do, how they are governed and where they invest their profit.

Example of a Social Enterprise

An arts for mental health business who offer high-end art tuition. They are entirely run by folks with lived experience of mental health issues and create their income through paid classes, a creative and commercial printing service and an issue based apparel line. This income allows them to offer arts for health interventions for people who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford them.



Could you be a social enterprise?

It doesn't matter what you sell – if you make over half of your income through selling goods or services, and re-invest that money in to your social or environmental purpose, you're a social enterprise.

Why social enterprise?

They offer innovative solutions to social issues, combining business practice and thinking with social mission and ethics. It's a way to do business, and offer community services, whilst being socially and economically sustainable.

Support in Bolton

If you're an SE in Bolton, BCVS has support for you.

We organise, host and deliver training and workshops, networking events and advice sessions to support you and your business to develop and thrive.

We also have great connections with all the business support services in Bolton, including the Library's Build a Business service and our colleagues from Business Bolton at the council.