



**Enterprise Solutions Northamptonshire**

**Achieving Social Aims Through Enterprise**

# Social Enterprise Support Services

- Do you want to help people or the environment?
- Could you do this and charge for your services or products?
- Are you already doing this and want support?
- Do you want to know more about social enterprise?

**Then contact us ...**



## What is a social enterprise?

A social enterprise is an organisation that trades primarily for a social and/or environmental purpose. It may also rely on grants and donations but a significant income is made from selling goods and services.

As with other businesses, social enterprises trade and seek to make 'profits'. Importantly social enterprises reinvest their surplus in the enterprise or the 'community' rather than paying it out to individual shareholders (some social enterprises have shares but the dividends are limited). Social enterprises also involve members and other stakeholders in decision making.

They have many structures and forms, such as co-operatives, Community Interest Companies, social businesses, development trusts, social firms and credit unions.

There are around 55,000 social enterprises in the UK. Those in Northamptonshire are involved in areas as diverse as recycling, youth work, leisure, childcare, food production and retail.



## Why might I want to set up a social enterprise?

- You may be thinking of starting a business to benefit people
- You may be involved in a community or voluntary organisation and want to earn an income to sustain it into the future
- You may see a need in your community and think that a social enterprise could be a way forward

If you are any of these or just want to know more do contact us.



## What benefits can social enterprises bring?

They can:

- involve local people in making a difference
- develop local skills and talent
- deliver efficient and responsive public services
- provide employment
- keep wealth in the area

*And more...*

## Who are we and what support can we provide?

Enterprise Solutions Northamptonshire (ESN) is the trading name of Northamptonshire CDA\* Limited (NCDA). Our organisation has supported social enterprises and co-operatives in the county since 1983. We also provide support to small businesses.

We have experienced staff and mentors. We can:

- help you to develop your ideas
- explore and plan the business potential
- advise and help you set up a structure
- help you to involve other key people and partners
- provide advice on financing and funding
- advise you on possible markets including the public sector
- provide services such as payroll and a registered office address

*And more...*

You can also join the Social Enterprise Network to access training and make links with other social enterprises.

Just contact us for further information and to make an appointment.

\* CDA stands for Co-operative Development Agency



**We are here to help**

**Just call us or email us  
for further information  
about our services**

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**Photographs of:**

Daily Bread Co-operative, Safe Kids Walking, Dance Dangerous,  
Red Dog Trading, Youth Works CIC, Rothwell Arts & Heritage Centre, Baby Ways CIC,  
Raunds Children's Centre, Liquorice Crafts, Kingswood Neighbourhood Centre  
(Linwood Community Co-operative), Big About Music CIC, Green Patch, Phoenix  
Furniture, Co-operative shop in Raunds, Country Fayres.



**Supported by:**

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