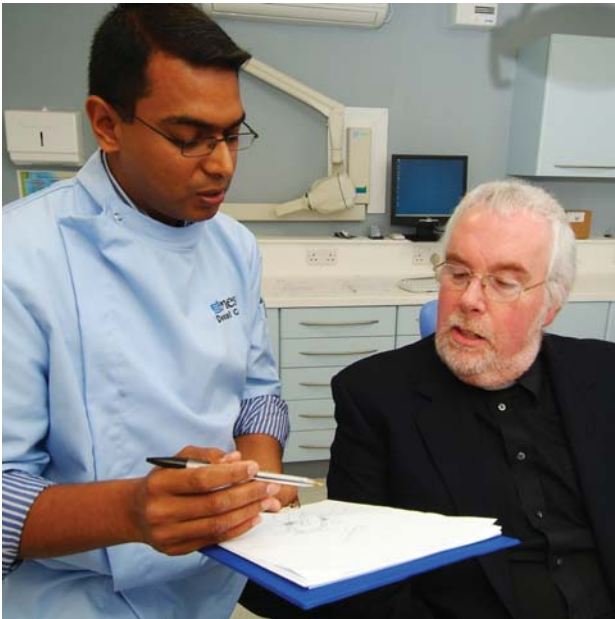




# Social Enterprise Business Support

**Social enterprise is big news: businesses and charities are excited by it; forward-thinking ethical people are connecting with it; schools are getting involved in it; and the government is supporting it. Why? Because social enterprise is all about modern business solutions to social and economic problems.**



Genesis Dental Care, Alfreton

But to ensure that social enterprise flourishes their business support needs must be met. Social Enterprise East Midlands has worked with emda and Business Link East Midlands to develop a specialist business support programme for social enterprise.

Whatever stage of development, this programme can provide you with the support that you need.

## Support to access specialist business advice

Grant funding may be available for social enterprises to purchase additional specialist advice, identified as a result of an in depth review with a Business Link adviser.

## Who can apply?

Funding may be available to social enterprises in the East Midlands for the following:

- Pre-start social enterprises can use the grant to purchase specialist advice on developing governance and legal structures.
- Start-Up and established social enterprises can use the grant to purchase specialist business advice to grow their business and/or to develop into new markets.

The grant will pay 100% of the costs of advice up to a maximum of £1,500. You will be offered a choice of specialist social enterprise business advisers to approach to provide the advice that you need.

## How do I apply?

Access to the grant is subject to availability and eligibility. To find out more about this grant, or to make an appointment to talk through your needs with a Business Link Adviser call **0845 058 6644** or email **info@businesslinkem.co.uk**



Fifteen, London

## Information workshops

As well as providing access to one to one support, the programme will also deliver a series of workshops across the region. These will provide practical support in short, sharp sessions for those starting out on the social enterprise journey and for those running established businesses.

## Awareness raising workshops

If you are planning to set up a social enterprise this workshop will help you understand the business model. These workshops will cover:

- what is social enterprise
- how relevant is social enterprise to you
- understanding social enterprise business models
- governance and legal structures
- starting up a social enterprise
- what support is available to you

## Business development workshops

Focussing on key business issues affecting social enterprises these workshops will explore practical approaches to supporting business growth including:

- how to finance your business
- understanding and accessing your markets
- social accounting and audit
- growth and development models
- transitional growth issues
- selling to the private and the public sectors

All workshops are free to attend.

To find out more about the workshops visit [www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands/socialenterprise](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands/socialenterprise)

## Did you know?

- The annual turnover of all the UK's social enterprises is at least £18 billion.
- There are around 55,000 social enterprises in the UK, employing about 750,000 people.
- There are approximately 3,500 social enterprises in the East Midlands.

Social enterprises are involved in areas as diverse as energy production, recycling, youth work, leisure services, care services, food production and retail, arts, transport and horticulture.

Well known examples of social enterprises include Jamie Oliver's restaurant Fifteen and fair-trade coffee company Cafedirect. Regional examples include Shepshed Carers, Sherwood Energy Village and Unique Social Enterprise.



**Providing access to all the information, advice and support  
needed to start, maintain and grow a business.**

Business Link Regional Client Contact Centre  
Innovation House • Riverside Park • Raynesway • Derby • DE21 7BF  
Telephone: 0845 058 6644 • Fax: 01332 280 792  
e-mail: [info@businesslinkem.co.uk](mailto:info@businesslinkem.co.uk)  
[www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands)



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