



our organisation is driven by social enterprises

raising awareness in the south east...

The se² partnership is the partnership of organisations and networks supporting the development of social enterprise in the South East. Our mission is to provide a flexible, dynamic and sustainable infrastructure that will most effectively enable the growth of social enterprise impact throughout the region and consequently, we act as a regional 'hub', co-ordinating and supporting social enterprise development, providing a regional voice for the sector and an essential link for the social enterprise networks in the region.

Working collaboratively with Business Link and with funding from The Office of the Third Sector (OTS), the se² partnership has supported the region's strategy of enhancing social enterprise business support activity and raising the awareness and profile of the sector in the South East region. This has been achieved through the following initiatives.....

supporting social enterprises to access funding support

Funding support of between £500 and £2,500 was on offer to social enterprises in the South East, who needed to access in-depth specialised support in order to progress with their business development. Social enterprises worked intensively with a Business Link Business Adviser, to review their business needs and a comprehensive Business Action Plan was produced to ascertain what support was needed to take the business forwards. The social enterprise could then apply for a Business Support Voucher to help towards the costs of bringing in a professional consultant. The se² partnership played an active role in the assessment of the applications and the results have been really impressive!

98 social enterprises supported with grant funding for professional consultancy services - paying out a combined total in excess of £220,000. As a result, websites have been launched, brands have been redesigned, commercial activities have been explored and low carbon initiatives have been developed

supporting the cpd of social enterprise business advisers

20 bursaries were awarded to train and support Social Enterprise Advisers in gaining ILM level 5 in Social Enterprise Business Support or SFEDI Accreditation. Working with Business Link, we helped to support a Social Enterprise Adviser CPD programme, which enabled potential advisers to gain the required skills to offer business advice to social enterprises in the South East. This has helped provide better learning opportunities for social enterprises.

taking partners out to visit inspiring social enterprises

There is a real need across the region to continue raising the profile of the social enterprise sector with infrastructure support organisations, partners, Local Authority procurers and commissioners, local policy influencers, etc. To tackle this, the se² partnership delivered a series of ten Social Enterprise Visits across the South East, with the aim of increasing knowledge of the sector and enabling partners to understand the needs of social enterprises, which may ultimately help influence policy and decisions made at a local and regional level. **Approx 160 individuals attended the Visits and feedback has been really positive!**

"I now have a better understanding of what a social enterprise is, how they contribute to the local, regional and national picture and how passionate the people are involved with them - very inspiring!"

helping to stimulate and create a thriving social enterprise sector

The events were an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of the sector and consequently, in excess of 270 individuals attended the events, with in excess of 250 referrals being made to Business Link for further business support services.

A great example of collaborative working!"

As part of the region's strategy to stimulate and create a thriving social enterprise sector, the se² partnership developed a series of "An Introduction to Social Enterprise" awareness raising events across the region. The events targeted individuals wishing to start a social enterprise, voluntary and community organisations seeking to develop alternative revenue streams, social entrepreneurs, board members, pre-start, start-up and early stage social enterprises, support organisations that were looking to develop their skills and expertise in social enterprise, Business Link personnel wanting an introduction to the sector and any other parties that were considering launching, or were new to, social enterprise.

helping existing social enterprises to develop and grow

In response to the needs of the South East's social enterprises, a series of twenty events and workshops were delivered, via the local networks, to support existing social enterprises to develop and grow. Subjects ranged from social accounting and impact measurement, self directed support and commissioning, making local food work, supporting women in social enterprise, modernisation of social care, sustainability and commissioning, supporting arts based social enterprises, corporate social responsibility, on-line marketing to name a few....

In excess of 270 social enterprises attended the events, with over 200 referrals being made to Business Link

We attended the event today to raise the profile of our business and to showcase our products to potential customers in the South East. It's been an excellent event with lots of networking and contacts being made.

Delegate attending Surrey's 'Food for Thought' event

For details of all our forthcoming events, workshops and seminars please visit - www.se2partnership.co.uk/calendar.asp