



# Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium

## Who we are

Birmingham & Solihull Social Economy Consortium (BSSEC) is a practitioner-led network of agencies and enterprises supporting the social economy in Birmingham and Solihull.

We believe that any fully developed local economy needs within it a strong and diverse social economy sector in which enterprises conduct commercial activity to achieve social objectives. Without this, a local economy is incomplete.

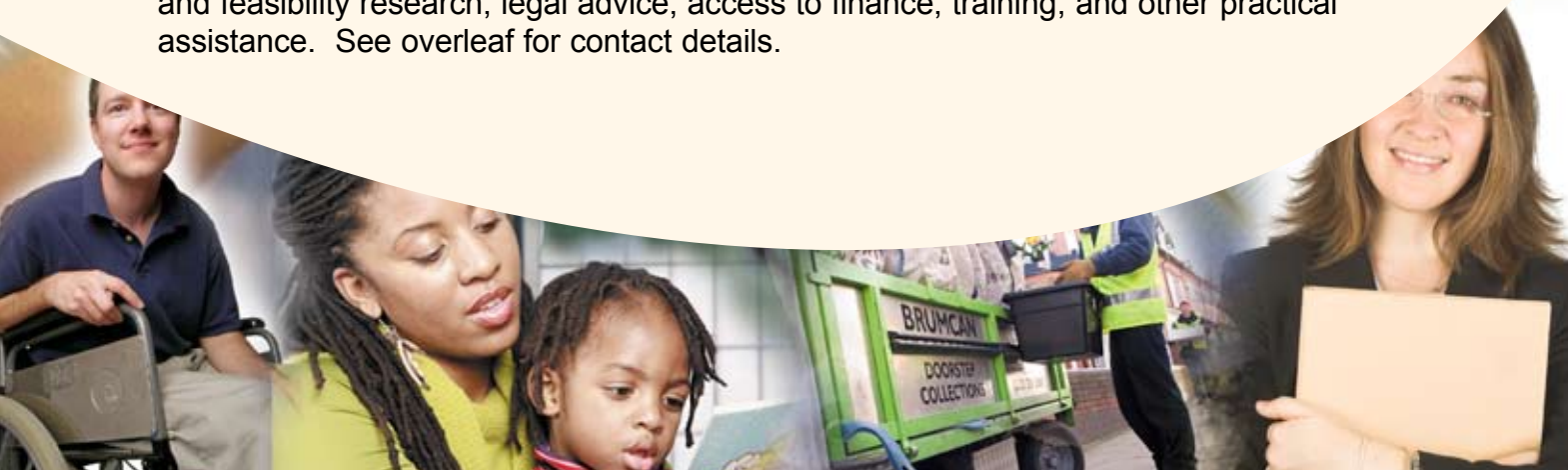
## Our aims

We work jointly to enable the social economy to grow, to maximise its potential to create jobs, and to promote social trading, social inclusion and community involvement. We will do this by:

- Developing a shared strategic direction for the sector's development and growth and influencing local, regional and national policy in its favour.
- Maximising the resources which flow into the sector and the impact of those resources.
- Improving the support infrastructure for social enterprise and promoting principles of best practice.
- Linking the services of partner organisations to improve effectiveness and promote an extensive and seamless service for clients.
- Promoting the social economy and advocating on its behalf, improving the flow of information to, from and about the sector, and raising people's understanding of social enterprise.

## Practical help

Some of BSSEC's members can help you with business development, including market and feasibility research, legal advice, access to finance, training, and other practical assistance. See overleaf for contact details.



**For more information go to [www.bssec.org.uk](http://www.bssec.org.uk) or contact Alun Severn  
(BSSEC Secretariat) on 0121 233 0278, email [alun@bssec.org.uk](mailto:alun@bssec.org.uk)**

For details about business support providers please see our website at [http://www.bssec.org.uk/guide\\_to\\_businesssupport.html](http://www.bssec.org.uk/guide_to_businesssupport.html)

## **Anthony Collins Solicitors**

Law firm offering wide range of legal services, including advice for social enterprise on legal structures, CICs, directors' responsibilities, contracts, property, and employment law.

**Contact: Simon Lee**

**Tel: 0121 212 7451**

**[simon.lee@anthonicollins.com](mailto:simon.lee@anthonicollins.com)**

**[www.anthonycollins.com](http://www.anthonycollins.com)**

## **ART (Aston Reinvestment Trust)**

Provides loans to small businesses and social enterprises in Birmingham and North Solihull.

**Contact: Steve Walker**

**Tel: 0121 359 2444**

**[ART@reinvest.co.uk](mailto:ART@reinvest.co.uk)**

**[www.reinvest.co.uk](http://www.reinvest.co.uk)**

## **Aston School for Social Entrepreneurs**

Provides training and mentoring for social entrepreneurs from all areas of Birmingham.

**Contact: Jacqui Williams**

**Tel: 0121 554 9638**

**[jacqui.williams@astoncc.org](mailto:jacqui.williams@astoncc.org)**

**[www.sse.org.uk/groups/aston](http://www.sse.org.uk/groups/aston)**

## **Birmingham Chamber of Commerce**

Ensuring every individual and business has the opportunity and support to develop their business.

**Contact: Paul Hanna**

**Tel: 0121 607 1875**

**[p.hanna@birminghamchamber.org.uk](mailto:p.hanna@birminghamchamber.org.uk)**

**[www.birmingham-chamber.com](http://www.birmingham-chamber.com)**

## **Birmingham City Council Planning and Regeneration**

Provides grant funding for specialist support agencies and seeks to identify strategic and market opportunities for social enterprise.

**Contact: Susan O'Shea / Peter Vincent**

**Tel: 0121 303 4141**

**[susan\\_o'shea@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:susan_o'shea@birmingham.gov.uk)**

**[peter.vincent@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:peter.vincent@birmingham.gov.uk)**

**[www.birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk)**

## **brap**

Specialises in service development and transformation by using equality and human rights, and in support services for BME third sector organisations and social enterprises.

**Contact: Amy Wilkins**

**Tel: 0121 456 7403**

**[AmyW@brap.org.uk](mailto:AmyW@brap.org.uk)**

**[www.brap.org.uk](http://www.brap.org.uk)**

## **Business in the Community (BITC)**

A movement of UK companies committed to improving their positive impact on society.

**Contact: Steve Fitzgerald**

**Tel: 0121 451 2227**

**[sfitzgerald@bitc.org.uk](mailto:sfitzgerald@bitc.org.uk)**

**[www.bitc.org.uk](http://www.bitc.org.uk)**

## **BVSC (Birmingham Voluntary Service Council)**

Supports the development of all parts of the voluntary sector including social enterprises.

**Contact: Theresa Gillard**

**Tel: 0121 678 8802**

**[theresag@bvsc.org](mailto:theresag@bvsc.org)**

**[www.bvsc.org](http://www.bvsc.org)**

## **Colebridge Enterprises**

Is the Social Enterprise arm of Solihull SUSTAiN and operates Colebridge Communications, which offers web, media and IT services, and Waterloo Woodwork, which provides work experience and training for adults with learning disabilities. Colebridge Enterprises also supports the development of social enterprise in Solihull.

**Contact: Charles Rapson**

**Tel. 0121 770 8889**

**[charlesr@solihull-sustain.org.uk](mailto:charlesr@solihull-sustain.org.uk)**

**[www.solihull-sustain.org.uk/colebridge-enterprises](http://www.solihull-sustain.org.uk/colebridge-enterprises)**

## Development Trusts Association

### West Midlands

Supports community groups and regeneration partnerships seeking to establish community-based enterprises and development trusts.

**Tel: 0845 458 8336**

**westmidlands@dta.org.uk**

**www.dta.org.uk**

## The Digbeth Trust

Providing grassroots voluntary and community groups with development grants and technical expertise from registered consultants.

**Contact: Kate Hazlewood**

**Tel: 0121 753 0706**

**info@digbethtrust.org.uk**

**www.digbethtrust.org.uk**

## Diocese of Birmingham

### Community Regeneration Department

Co-ordinates and delivers development support to church-based community projects.

**Contact: Fred Rattley**

**Tel: 0121 426 0442**

**communityregeneration@birmingham.anglican.org**

**www.birmingham.anglican.org**

## ECOTEC Research & Consulting

Provides a broad range of research, consulting and management services to social enterprise and public sector.

**Contact: Melissa Dreyling**

**Tel: 0121 616 3646**

**Melissa.Dreyling@ecotec.com**

**www.ecotec.com**

## Enta

Enta's training programmes are aimed at improving the lives of those people living in the Birmingham and Solihull area who experience difficulty in accessing mainstream education, training or employment. We also provide capacity building activities for other organisations who share the same ambition.

**Contact: Gary Scott**

**Tel: 0121 200 1096**

**garyscott@entapeople.com**

**www.entapeople.com**

## i'SE (Initiative for Social Entrepreneurs)

Provides business development for the social economy, community and voluntary sectors in the West Midlands.

**Contact: Andy Beaton**

**Tel: 0121 771 1411**

**info@i-se.co.uk**

**www.i-se.co.uk**

## Jericho Community Business

Provides paid work experience for people who experience difficulties in finding work. Also runs study visits for people wishing to set up social enterprises.

**Contact: Richard Beard**

**Tel: 0121 440 7919**

**richard@jcp.org.uk**

**www.jcp.org.uk**

## Kajans

Offers a range of training and personal development courses and delivers specialist support for the black social enterprise sector.

**Contact: Hermin Macintosh**

**Tel: 0121 507 0904**

**kajansproduction@hotmail.com**

## RNIB Employment Services

Provides a range of services that support the development of workers with sight loss.

**Contact: Deborah Fox**

**Tel: 0121 665 4200**

**deborah.fox@rnib.org.uk**

**www.rnib.org.uk**

## Roots HR (CIC)

The UK's first and only not-for-personal-profit human resources consultancy providing services tailored specifically to the needs of social enterprises and the wider third sector.

**Contact: Jan Golding**

**0845 543 8429**

**info@rootshr.org.uk**

**http://www.rootshr.org.uk**

## **Sally Edwards Ltd**

Sally is a marketing and communications consultant with 20 years' experience and clients ranging from charities and social enterprises to global businesses. She is a registered Business Link supplier and has a particular interest in marketing for social enterprises.

**Contact: Sally Edwards**

**Tel: 0121 733 1808**

**sallyaedwards@btopenworld.com**

## **The Social Enterprise Loan Fund West Midlands**

Relaunched loan fund for charities and social enterprises. Three categories of loans: for property purchase/improvements (to £250,000); for other fixed assets (to £100,000); for working capital (to £50,000).

**Contact: Avril Howker**

**a.howker@tself.org.uk**

**Tel: 0115 974 6299**

**www.tself.org.uk**

## **Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council**

Involved in a wide range of inward investment and economic development activity.

**Contact: Community and Economic  
Regeneration**

**Tel: 0121 704 8192**

**economicdev@solihull.gov.uk**

**www.solihull.gov.uk**

## **Unity Trust Bank**

Providing specialist banking services for social enterprises, charities and voluntary organisations.

**Contact: Mark Ferguson**

**Tel: 0121 616 4105**

**Mark\_Ferguson@unity.co.uk**

**www.unity.uk.com**

## **UNLtd**

A charity that supports social entrepreneurs through a range of funding and support.

**Contact: Shamiela Ahmed**

**Tel: 0121 766 4570**

**ShamielaAhmed@unltd.org.uk**

**www.unltd.org.uk**