



Social Enterprise Week 17-21 November

1. What are social enterprises?

A social enterprise is a business that trades for a social and/or environmental purpose. It will have a clear sense of its 'social mission': which means it will know what difference it is trying to make, who it aims to help, and how it plans to do it. It will bring in most or all of its income through selling goods or services. And it will also have clear rules about what it does with its profits, reinvesting these to further the 'social mission'. Social enterprises come in many shapes and sizes from large national and international businesses to small community based enterprises.

2. What sorts of social enterprise already exist?

The Big Issue, the Eden Project and Jamie Oliver's restaurant Fifteen are examples of social enterprises. So are award-winners Divine Chocolate, a fair trade chocolate company co-owned by the cocoa farmers cooperative KuapaKokoo in Ghana and Timewise, which connects professionals with flexible employment opportunities. Some local social enterprises are listed on the other side.

3. What does Social Enterprise UK do?

We are the national body for social enterprise. Social enterprises are businesses that are changing the world. When they profit, society profits. Together with our members we are the voice for social enterprise. We do research, provide information and tools, share knowledge, build networks, raise awareness and campaign to create a business environment where social enterprises can thrive.

4. What is Social Enterprise Week?

Social Enterprise week is taking place in parts of the UK where social enterprise activity is thriving. From quarters, towns, cities and zones, areas around the UK are declaring themselves as social enterprise places committed to investing in the sector. Social Enterprise UK is recognising these hotspots of social enterprise activity by awarding them with the Social Enterprise Place badge, celebrating their achievements and supporting them to grow.



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