

Social Enterprise Scotland launch Digital Showcase 2020 to shine a spotlight on the exceptional work of the social enterprise sector through Covid-19



This past year has been a year like no other. The impact of Covid-19 on our communities, and the rest of the world, has been unprecedented. It's a challenge that looks set to remain and while aware this will continue to be a difficult time, we wanted to recognise the impact our sector has had during the current time.

For over ten years now Social Enterprise Scotland has held an annual gathering at the Scottish Parliament to celebrate the impact and work delivered by our sector. We were due to host our awards in November this year, however, we did not feel it was appropriate to run our annual awards in the traditional way. Instead, we want to take the time to highlight the work of our sector and thank those people and organisations that have stepped up to support their communities during such a difficult period.

We are today therefore launching our Digital Showcase 2020. The showcase will be held on Tuesday 3rd November and will provide an opportunity to offer a formal thank you for all staff and volunteers involved. Applications for the showcase are now open and will close on Wednesday 30th September. We will then work with organisations to develop material for the showcase that they can also use to promote the work they have undertaken - small grants/bursaries will be available for this. For more information on the awards or to submit your application please visit <https://socialenterpriseawards.scot/>

From mental health support, food banks and support for the homeless, production of PPE and signage to prescription services and the fast development of services for those who were shielding - many have quickly pivoted services to deal with an immediate crisis, leaders have demonstrated bold choices, staff have stepped up and we have all learnt how to operate in a more digital world.

Chris Martin, CEO at [Social Enterprise Scotland](#) notes "We really hope you can join us and encourage you to apply. We know this remains a challenging situation for many and we will continue to represent and support the sector moving forwards. We want to remain hopeful, encourage our sector and even where organisations have not been able to pivot, we can still congratulate leadership through challenging times. We want to showcase the agility, ability and active role our sector has played building on the trust and confidence strengthened during Covid. We hope this trust and commitment will be remembered in future commissioning of services and that future contracts will recognise the need for smaller, more agile organisations alongside larger contractors".

END

Notes to Editors:

1 There are 6,025 social enterprises in Scotland according the most recent, 2019, Census.

2 What is a social enterprise? Social enterprises are independent businesses that exist to deliver a specific social and/or environmental mission. This could be supporting the homeless, recycling waste, delivering health services or something similar. They aim to make profit like any other business, but invest profits in their social purpose. They're a more ethical and sustainable way of doing business. Social enterprises are *not* charities that get most income from grants/donations and they're *not* a business simply behaving ethically or an arms-length company of a public body. Read more [here](#).

3 What examples are there? Diverse examples include: The Big Issue, The Wise Group, Social Bite, Edinburgh Remakery, Cornerstone, Kibble Education and Care, media co-op, Glasgow Housing Association, Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust, Link Group Ltd, the Eden Project, Capital Credit Union, The Grameen Foundation, Mondragon Corporation in the Basque Country and the Homeless World Cup.

4. Who are Social Enterprise Scotland?

Social Enterprise Scotland are a membership organisation that seeks to promote, support and connect social enterprises across Scotland.