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Social Enterprise Hubs The Experience to Date Mary Mac Rory Omagh Enterprise Company Ltd



Northern Ireland
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DELIVERING SOCIAL CHANGE



Social Enterprise Hubs

- Funded by OFMDFM and managed by DSD and DETI through Invest NI
- Delivering Social Change Programme
- 1 of 11 hubs throughout Northern – delivery of Western Zone
- Support and advice to individuals, community groups and voluntary groups with a new social enterprise idea



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Social Enterprise Hubs

- 2 Hub Locations
 - Strabane, Railway Street
 - Enniskillen, Clinton Centre
- 5 Retail Units
 - 2 Strabane, Railway Street
 - 3 Enniskillen, Nugent's Entry





Social Enterprise Hubs

- Support available – New Social Enterprise Ideas
 - Taster Session & Ideas Generation
 - Networking Events & Drop in Business clinics – SENI, NIHE, Brightstart
 - Buddy System/linkages
 - Action planning and mentoring sessions
 - Test Trading Support





Examples...

- Fermanagh Craft Collective – Collage Collective CIC
 - Formed Group of like minded individuals
 - Set up a Community Interest Company
 - Mentoring Support and guidance
 - Test Traded from Nugent's Lane for 6 months
 - Promoting local crafters and their goods and services
 - Now Trading From the Buttermarket



Examples...

- Sycamore Studios
 - Young People interested in Music
 - Formed Group of like minded individuals
 - Set up a Community Interest Company
 - Mentoring Support and guidance
 - Traded for 6 months from Nugent's Lane
 - Provide space for Musicians
 - Recording and tuition opportunities
 - Positive Experience – Chairperson secured place at Music College in Leeds



Examples...

- Ernevale Beacon Centre
 - Looked towards Social Enterprise to help with sustainability
 - Established BKN – Upcycling shop and Furniture Restoration
 - Working with individuals with mental health issues giving them opportunity to learn new skills, interact with others, increase confidence and self-esteem - all important steps in regaining a purposeful life.
 - Model scaled and replicated in other Beacon Centres across N Ireland
 - Currently Trading from Nugent's Lane



Examples...

- Westville Family Resource Centre
- Provides a range of services for families - parents with children 0-5 years and other children.
- deliver a range of programmes covering children's development, their health, education, behaviour and personal development.
- Created Social Enterprise Let's Get Arty
- Focus on creativity and imagination without toys
- Programme of activities with hands on activities
- Currently trading from Nugent's Lane



Examples

- B2gether
 - Started with an individual who saw a gap in the provision of services for young people with learning difficulties
 - Formed a CIC with like minded individuals
 - Trading 2 days per week from the Clinton Centre
 - Offering a range of fun & creative activities
 - Currently 30 members availing of business
 - Wider benefits to family and the business community



Experience to Date

- Benefits to Community & Voluntary Groups
 - Provides Income
 - Not grant reliant
 - Generates a 'buzz' in the area
- Encourages entrepreneurship in the wider community
- Promotes a can to attitude
- Small ideas can become a reality
- Groups and individuals need support
- Communities of Place prefer to concentrate on their own community
- Communities of people can make a positive difference when they come together with a common goal



Contact Details

Mary Mac Rory

Jill Stronge

Sinead McKenna

Lisa Condron

Omagh Enterprise Company

Tel: 028 82 249494

Email: mary.macrory@omaghenterprise.co.uk or
western@socialenterprisecore.co.uk



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