



Business for Good Growth & Resilience Programme

School for Social Entrepreneurs and Co-operatives UK



This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is managed by TSL Kirklees CIO, charity no: 1162592

Contents

Programme overview.....	3
Who is this programme for?.....	4
Programme dates and location	4
How do I apply for the programme?	5
Accessibility and our commitment to inclusion	6
Frequently Asked Questions	6

Introduction

The Business for Good Growth & Resilience programme is a FREE learning programme supporting you to develop new and existing skills and network with other socially minded or democratically owned businesses based in West Yorkshire. The programme is jointly delivered by the School of Social Entrepreneurs and Co-operatives UK and builds on both organisations experience of working with alternative businesses.

The Business for Good Growth & Resilience programme is part of the Business for Good, West Yorkshire programme which aims to provide specialist business support to Alternative Businesses (Social enterprises, co-operatives and community businesses) across West Yorkshire. Business for Good West Yorkshire is led by TSL Kirklees and delivered by a partnership of local providers - Participate Projects, Voluntary Action Leeds, SEE Ahead, Co-op Culture and Stir to Action supported by national organisations Co-operatives UK and School for Social Entrepreneurs.

The School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) was founded in 1997 by Sir Michael Young. We work with around 1000 social enterprises a year, helping leaders to start, scale and strengthen organisations that make a positive difference. But we're not a traditional school. Learning with SSE is inspiring, action-based and accessible – no textbooks.

As the voice of the UK's co-operative movement, Co-operatives UK empowers and supports co-operative enterprises with specialised knowledge and expertise, to grow the co-operative economy and create a fairer society.

The programme is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>.



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire



Programme overview

The Business for Good Growth & Resilience programme will work with 20 representatives of alternative businesses which includes co-operatives, social enterprises and community businesses through access to a supportive learning and development programme. The programme will support alternative businesses to grow their impact with particular emphasis towards those creating and safeguarding jobs. The programme aims to:

- Develop entrepreneurial skills to help grow your organisation and/or safeguard jobs.
- Develop resilience and leadership skills.
- Develop strong peer networks of fellow entrepreneurs.

The learning programme will be focused on the needs of the participants and will be further defined once the cohort has been selected. Potential topics include:

- Business strategy planning and income streams
- Personal resilience and wellbeing
- Leadership
- Increasing financial resilience
- Impact measurement
- Environmental impact and decarbonisation
- Reaching new markets
- Governance & HR
- Social investment
- Contracts & commissioning
- Tech and Digital (for pivoting business model, new markets or just improving systems & processes)

The programme will have 20 places and will include:

- **5 Learning sessions** (all online) from May 2024 to October 2024. Learn from experts and leaders from the alternative business sector who will share their stories. There will be a bursary of up to £300 available to support your attendance.
- **3 Action Learning Sets** – this is smaller group work with a trained facilitator, designed to support you to share successes and challenges and learn from one another. You can find out more about Action Learning [HERE](#).
- **1:1 Peer Support** – buddy up with another programme participant to share ways of working and common challenges.
- **In-person site visits** (over 1 day) featuring a tour of multiple alternative businesses and peer networking opportunities (travel/expenses will be provided).
- **Access a diverse network** and build relationships with SSE, Co-operatives UK and other leaders within alternative business models enterprises.
- **Celebrate your achievements** at an in-person celebration event in October 2024.
- **Access to a wider network of support** through the Business for Good, West Yorkshire programme including specialist business coaches.



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire



CO-OPERATIVES UK

Who is this programme for?

The Business for Good Growth & Resilience programme will support representatives from alternative businesses who meet the following criteria:

- Your organisation is based in West Yorkshire (Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Wakefield and Leeds)
- You have been trading for at least 18 months and able to demonstrate this via financial records showing an income of at least £15K over the last 12 months.
- You can provide evidence of your legal structure and governance documents. You may be a co-operative society or co-operative company, registered charity, a Community Benefit Society (CBS), registered society or a Community Interest Company (CIC). We can also accept limited corporations if you have a social purpose, majority restriction on profits, and an asset lock.
- Your organisation has a social or environmental purposes and/ or is democratically controlled and owned.
- Your aim is to make your business more resilient and ensure staff numbers are maintained or increased in the next 6 months.
- You are interested in supporting the growth of your enterprise through adopting new processes/technologies or
- You are planning to explore launching new markets, services or membership this year

We would particularly welcome applications from those who are from Black and minoritised communities, disabled people, LGBTQIA+ people and/ or those working with communities with less privilege.

Programme dates and location

All sessions will take place via Zoom (9am – 1.30pm), supported by resources on an online platform to enable participants to access information about the programme and wider resources. Delivery dates will be confirmed when the cohort has been selected.

Activity	Date
Learning session 1 with guest speakers	Tuesday 14 th May
Learning session 2 with guest speakers	Wednesday 22 nd May
Action Learning Set	Wednesday 12 th June
Learning session 3 with guest speakers	Tuesday 25 th June
Action Learning Set	Wednesday 10 th July
Learning session 4 with guest speakers	Tuesday 10 th September
Action Learning Set	Wednesday 25 th September
Learning session 5 with guest speakers	Tuesday 8 th October
In person celebration event (West Yorkshire based venue)	Tuesday 22 nd October

How do I apply for the programme?

Due to a limited number of places on the programme, please use our online [application form](#) to apply for your place on the programme. The deadline for applications is **12pm on 19th April 2024** however we strongly advise early applications. Applications will be assessed and the outcome will be communicated by the end of April 2024.

As part of the application, we ask you to provide your most recent full annual accounts if available, and if you are working with children and young people and/ vulnerable adults we will expect you to provide your safeguarding policy. If possible, please also provide a copy of current income and expenditure for this financial year, and any useful documents about your impact, such as a case study or impact report if you have one.

Please save these in the following format:

Document type	File name format
Your most recent annual accounts	FirstnameSurnameAccounts.doc
Income and expenditure	FirstnameSurnameIncomeExpenditure.doc
Safeguarding policy	NameofSocialEnterpriseSafeguardingPolicy.doc
Documents about your impact and work	FirstnameSurnameImpactReport.doc

You can save your application and return to it at a later date. Just click “Save for later”, and you will be given a unique link to return to your application.

When you’ve completed all the questions, click “Preview” to review your application, then click “Submit”. You will be redirected to our equalities monitoring form and you will also receive a copy of your application by an email from 123 Formbuilder. **Check your junk folder if you can't find the email.**

SSE and Co-operatives UK will be hosting a webinar to share more about the programme on Monday 11th March at 3pm. Please register to attend [HERE](#). Please check the [Business for Good website](#) for other information sessions available.

Please submit your application by **12pm on 19th April 2024**. Under exceptional circumstances, we may give approval to submit your application late. To arrange this, you must email **Claire Dever** ahead of the deadline on claire.dever@sse.org.uk.

Application Questions: A downloadable set of application questions can be found on our website with guidance and space for you to plan your answers and share these with others in your social enterprise, but you will need to apply using the online form. It is possible to also upload voice recordings for the longer text questions, if you prefer.



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire



CO-OPERATIVES UK

Application support: If you need help with your application, have difficulty filling in forms because of dyslexia, language or disability, or would like to arrange some one-to-one advice about applying, please contact Alex, Project Coordinator, alex.vanparijs@sse.org.uk

Accessibility and our commitment to inclusion

We recognise that discrimination of all sorts infiltrates every part of our society, and we are working hard to counter that wherever we find it. To that end, we actively encourage applications from people of all faiths, gender identities, sexual orientations, economic circumstances and backgrounds, as well as those from Black and minoritised communities and disabled people. No educational qualifications are needed to join this programme.

If you require reasonable adjustments, in order to take part in the programme due to a disability, caring responsibilities or any other reason, you will be able to provide details in the application form or contact us by phone or email to discuss further.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can I apply if I have been on an SSE programme before or am currently on an SSE programme?

You can apply if:

- You have attended previous SSE programmes.
- You have applied to SSE before and were unsuccessful.
- You are on a current SSE programme which ends before April 2024.

2. Can I apply if my organisation has staff or trustees that are connected to SSE, Co-operatives UK or another partner connected to the Business for Good Partnership?

Please contact us before making an application to ensure that there is no conflict of interest.

3. Can another colleague attend in my place if I am unable to attend a session, or would benefit more from the subject matter?

To enable the cohort to bond and build rapport with the facilitator (and each other), we expect 1 representative per organisation to attend each session. If one of the session topics is more relevant to a colleague, you are able to nominate your colleague to attend in your place, however this must be agreed with the facilitator before the session takes place. All programme participants should have autonomy to implement and share learning from the programme.

4. Where can I find out more information about the programme and wider offer?

Please go to the Business for Good website: [Grow - Business for Good West Yorkshire \(bfgwy.org.uk\)](http://Grow - Business for Good West Yorkshire (bfgwy.org.uk))



Funded by
UK Government

**LEVELLING
UP**

5. What about Data protection?

SSE has a [Data Protection Policy](#). We are committed to protecting your personal information and acting in accordance with your rights under the Data Protection Act 1998. We may need to share your information in order to undertake assessment of your application, statistical analysis, research and monitoring, compliance and regulatory reporting and fraud prevention. We may share your information with:

- our funders
- our partners or subcontractors for operational reasons
- other agencies in order to assess your application
- others for the purpose of compliance and regulatory reporting and to confirm your identity for money laundering purposes and fraud prevention
- if compelled to do so by law.



West
Yorkshire
Combined
Authority

Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire



CO-OPERATIVES UK

This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is managed by TSL Kirklees CIO, charity no: 1162592

bfgwy.org.uk info@bfgwy.org.uk