

Social Enterprise and Social Firms



Any adult can be employed by, volunteer or have a share in, a social enterprise/social firm. Some social enterprises are set up to employ people in a particular community or those who have a shared experience, such as having mental health problems.



Social enterprises are businesses that trade for social and environmental purposes. The Government supports social enterprises through a number of funding streams, including the Department of Health Social Enterprise Investment Fund (SEIF). This helps new social enterprises in the health and social care sectors start up and existing social enterprises grow and improve their services. Social firms are social enterprises set up specifically to create sustainable paid employment for people who otherwise face significant barriers in the labour market. They operate as businesses that generate at least 50 per cent of their income from the sale of their products or services and re-invest any profits to benefit the wider community.



Visit: <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk> or <http://www.socialfirmsuk.co.uk>.



- NHS Trusts and local authorities and learning providers may use a social enterprise business to support or deliver social care, vocational services or supported employment programmes.

