

POLICY INSIGHT

Social Enterprise Bill

New Conservative MP Chris White has tabled a Private Members' Bill on Social Enterprise - read details of his proposals in the policy news section.

Health sector reform

A Department of Health White Paper launched this week has proposed significant reforms to the sector - see the policy news section for more details.

Procurement event

SEC is hosting an event with the ESRC and Department for Communities and Local Government on Monday 26th July - see the events section for details.

Policy News

- Social Enterprise Bill
- New Department of Health White Paper
- The new Government Work Programme

Publications

- Big Society publications from nef and the IPPR
- Measuring Social Value, Demos
- Investing in Social Enterprise, CSFI
- Local Government publications from the SDC and Demos
- An Inconvenient Sandwich, nef

Coalition Consultations

- Department for Energy and Climate Change, Microgeneration strategy

Other Consultations

- Department of Health, The Health and Social Care Act 2008, Code of Practice for healthcare, including primary care, and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance

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Profiles

- Grassroots social enterprises: the Healing Clinic in York, Thinking Flowers in London and Siawns Teg in Wales

Social Enterprise Bill

New Conservative MP for Warwick and Leamington, Chris White, has tabled a Private Members Bill on Social Enterprise.

Whereas most primary legislation passed by Parliament originates from bills introduced by the Government, Private Members Bills are an opportunity for MPs with no government responsibilities to propose legislation. In order to table a Private Members Bill, MPs enter into a ballot, with priority given according to the order in which the names drawn. Having been drawn 3rd in the ballot, Chris White MP will have the opportunity for his bill to be fully debated in Parliament.

The title of the legislation proposed by Mr White is *Public Services (Social Enterprise And Social Value) Bill* and it will propose that “public sector contracts include provisions relating to social outcomes and social value” as well as requiring “the Secretary of State and local authorities to publish strategies in connection with promoting social enterprise”.

The bill will next be read and debated in the Commons on Friday 19th November. SEC will be working hard to support Mr White and ensure that we make the

most of this important opportunity for the movement. For further details, please visit the [UK parliament website](#) or contact [Olof Jonsdottir](#).

New Department of Health White Paper

Earlier this week the Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley set out the Government’s plans to reform the NHS during this Parliament and for the long-term.

The paper, *Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS*, proposed a radical set of plans for the NHS, many of which will have considerable implications on social enterprises operating in the health fields or hoping to move into this space.

The underlying theme of the White Paper is the devolution of power from Whitehall to patients and professionals with more choices for patients, increased focus on outcomes, and greater autonomy for staff and service users. These are principles that social enterprises are wholly committed to.

One of the key changes will be to have consortia of GPs take charge of commissioning all local services.

These will be overseen by NHS Commissioning Boards. There will be also be greater focus on more joined up services, supported by a new role for Local Authorities to support integration across health and social care. Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts will be phased out and Foundation Trusts (FTs) will be given increased powers, with a commitment to create the largest social enterprise sector in the world.

The paper is not high on detail on what the practical implications of many of these changes will be, but there is little doubt that they will radically change the healthcare landscape.

Placing commissioning under the control of GPs could in theory create a market that encourages more locally tailored, patient-focused social enterprise solutions. However, this will require a considerable shift in the capacity of GPs as commissioners – without this there is a real danger that the market will be dominated by large providers that will stifle innovation, limit choice and squeeze out smaller, local providers who may be best placed to deliver the improved health outcomes the Government wishes to see.

There are, however, concerns regarding the proposal for all NHS trusts to become employee-led social

enterprises as there seems to be considerable confusion in the document over the differences between FTs and social enterprises. In particular, under the proposals FTs will not be fully autonomous.

SEC will be working with the Department of Health to develop these ideas and help them to realise their ambitions for social enterprises to help improve the future of healthcare in England.

To see SEC's response to the White Paper, please visit our website. For more information on the proposals, visit the Department of Health's [website](#) or contact [Ceri Jones](#).

The new Government Work Programme

Employment Minister Chris Grayling announced a series of reforms to the welfare system in June 2010. The new Work Programme will replace the current back to work schemes and provide a package of support for people out of work. The Government is inviting expressions of interest from the private, public and voluntary sectors to help deliver this.

The Department for Work and Pensions expect to appoint between three and eight organisations to each of 11 Lots based on regions. The indicative overall value of contracts to be let through this framework agreement is likely to be between £0.3 billion - £3 billion per year. Individual contract values will vary, but in the main are likely to be between £10-50 million per year. The framework agreement will be for up to four years. The expectation is that many contracts let under the framework agreement will be long term and may be up to seven years.

The Social Enterprise Coalition has expressed a concern that as the Work Programme will be delivered through a prime contractor model, only larger organisations will be able to win these contracts. Social enterprises, even as consortia, will have a difficult time competing at that level. The complex needs of the unemployed will be more difficult to deliver by social enterprise sub-contractors if they are shoe-horned into structures under large-scale private operations. Additionally, in implementing a payments-by-results model, there is a danger that the Government could inadvertently prevent participation of social enterprises, especially those working with people furthest from the jobs market, because of resulting cash flow issues.

If you have any comments or case studies in relation to social enterprises involvement in government employment programmes, please contact [Jon Woolfson](#).



Our pick of recently released publications from think tanks and government departments that may be of interest to the social enterprise movement.

Ten Big Questions about the Big Society – June 2010, nef

nef welcomes the broad vision of the Big Society but recognises that everything depends on how the vision is translated into policy and practice. This paper presents questions and proposals to help fill in some of the gaps and bring out the best in the idea of a big society.

Growing the Big Society – July 2010, IPPR

The Big Society is an important theme for the Government and the new regional strategy currently being developed for the North West makes social enterprise a priority. The report draws together the results of case study research to identify the critical success factors for social enterprises and inform the debate.

Measuring Social Value – July 2010, DEMOS

This report provides a snapshot of the third sector's

ability to measure and communicate the social value of the services it provides. It also investigates the range of frameworks available for measuring social value and assesses progress made towards using these frameworks, particularly SROI.

Investing in Social Enterprise: the role of tax incentives – June 2010, CSFI

This report is an investigation into the various legal, tax and business forms that characterise the increasingly complex world of social entrepreneurship. It is also the second paper CSFI have published in cooperation with the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts.

The Future is Local: Empowering communities to improve their neighbourhoods – July 2010, Sustainable Development Commission

This report argues that enabling communities to lead local renewal projects with a neighbourhood-wide approach is the most cost-effective way to ensure our villages, towns and cities are fit for the future and create the conditions for people to thrive.

Trust in Practice – June 2010, DEMOS

The success of devolution depends on residents trusting their local councils enough to engage in decision making and welcome greater devolution. This pamphlet presents the second phase of Demos' research into public trust in local government and shows councils how to develop tailored trust-building strategies.

An Inconvenient Sandwich: The throwaway economics of takeaway food, June 2010, nef

The British appetite for quick, cheap, convenient food that we can eat wherever we happen to be has hidden costs to society, public health and the environment. This report investigates the economic pressures facing independent cafés and sandwich bars which often forces social justice, sustainability and health off the menu.



COALITION CONSULTATIONS

Consultations the Coalition will be responding to. If you are interested in any of these consultations, please contact the relevant policy team member to feed into our response.

Please contact [David Forsgate](#) to feed in to the Coalition's response.

[Department for Energy and Climate Change,
Microgeneration strategy consultation](#)

Closing Date: 22/12/2010

This strategy looks ahead to 2020 and covers England only. It seeks views on four key policy areas that can help decarbonise the way we heat our homes and businesses, reducing the UK's CO2 emissions and contributing to our target of sourcing 20% of all EU energy from renewables by 2020.

The strategy is the first stage of plans to help communities become more self-sufficient in the way they use heat and power. The Government wants to see what more it can do to help develop the microgeneration industry, create more job opportunities, and ensure customers can trust the green technology they buy.



Consultations your organisation or your members might be interested in responding to.

[Department of Health, The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice for healthcare, including primary care, and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance](#)

Closing date: 15/07/2010

This consultation document invites comments and views on the draft 'Health and Social Care Act 2008 Code of Practice for healthcare, including primary care, and adult social care on the prevention and control of infections and related guidance'.



What we have been up to...

APPG AGM and seminar on the role of social enterprise in the Big Society – 29th June 2010, Houses of Parliament, London

Following the election of the Conservative-Liberal Democrat Coalition Government, this seminar explored what the Government's Big Society vision means for social enterprise. In particular, the group discussed public services, supporting the growth of the movement and the Big Society Bank.

Keynote speakers included Geoff Walker, CEO of Sandwell Community Caring Trust and Andrew Croft, CEO of CAN, both leading figures from the world of social enterprise.

Social Enterprise Coalition and CIC Association Forum – 5th July 2010, CAN Mezzanine, London

Over 50 delegates attended this event to hear from key experts in the CIC sector. Speakers included Peter Holbrook and Ceri Jones, Social Enterprise Coalition, John Mulkerrin from the CIC Association and Chris Southworth from the Better Regulation

Executive.

Caroline Mason, Investing for Good and Sara Burgess, the CIC Regulator then led groups in the afternoon workshop sessions.

Information from the event will feed into SEC's ongoing work to bring together key policy makers and stakeholders to spread knowledge of the benefits of the Community Interest Company model.

Knowledge Sharing Workshop on Business Support Project – 12 July 2010, Baskerville House, Birmingham

On the 12th July the Social Enterprise Coalition ran a free one-day workshop which brought together a wide range of social enterprise business support projects that are taking place across England. Over 30 project managers attended the event and it proved to be a valuable opportunity for them to meet and network; to share expertise and experience. With key speakers from the sector, it was also an opportunity to join in conversation on the current challenges facing the social enterprise business support landscape and how these can be planned for and overcome.

An event summary and key learning from the day will be hosted on the SEC website later this month. For any queries, please contact [Craig Carey](#).



What we are going to be up to...

Social Enterprise, Procurement and the Role of Local Government – 26th July 2010, Department for Communities and Local Government, London

This is the last in a series of seminars organised by SEC, the Economic and Social Research Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government. Focusing on public procurement in the current economic climate, the emphasis of the seminar will be on interaction, active learning and personal knowledge exchange.

Speakers will include Professor Tony Bovaird, Professor of Public Management and Policy at the Third Sector Research Centre, University of Birmingham, Reverend Tim Curtis, Senior Lecturer in Social Enterprise at the University of Northampton Business School, and Ceri Jones, Head of Policy at SEC.

‘Getting More for Less’ community of practice, IDeA – 19 to 23 July 2010

The Social Enterprise Coalition will be participating

in a free online conference which covers strategic commissioning, working with the public sector, better procurement and radical innovation for efficiency.

A huge range of speakers from across the public sector will be talking about efficiency, transformation and innovation. You can start discussions, contribute and share your story, too.

For more information, please visit the [IDeA’s website](#).

Health and Social Care Forum – September 2010 (date and venue tbc)

SEC’s next Health and Social Care Forum will take place in September. Discussions will be focused on the implications of the recent Department of Health White Paper for social enterprises. More details will be available shortly on [SEC’s website](#).



In this edition, we profile three grassroots social enterprises from around the UK.

The Healing Clinic, York

The Healing Clinic was founded 18 years ago by June Tranmer with the aim of promoting alternative and natural health and to make it more accessible to the community. Initially based in a building of the Steiner School in South York, in 2007 the Clinic qualified as CIC and moved to its current location in central York. The new Clinic houses several treatment rooms, a small shop selling natural remedies, and a courses room where Pilates and other classes are taught to trainee practitioners.

Since becoming a CIC, the Healing Clinic has developed an extensive outreach programme where practitioners of the Clinic take part in a range of events offering their services for free to the wider public, for example working together with MIND, the UK's leading mental health charity, to offer free hand massage to patients to increase their wellbeing, and partnering with a new cancer clinic in York to develop a programme of complementary therapies.

The Clinic's customers tend to be from all walks of life; currently there is particular emphasis on generating money to allow people with lower income to come into

the Clinic and to be treated at their homes.

Thinking Flowers, London

Thinking Flowers was set up by Lauren Craig in 2003 to create exhibition pieces as well as flowers for individual and corporate use, using an ethical model based on a quadruple bottom line – economic, social, environmental and cultural.

The social objectives are to ensure that flowers as a consumer item are accessible and enable a connection with nature for all, especially for those living in poorer urban areas. Environmentally, the focus is on sustainable development and making flower import/export supply chains more ethical. Thinking Flowers sources flowers both locally and from East African farmers at fairly traded rates, and also runs a floral donation service to smaller charities to ensure that flowers have a longer shelf life. Financially, the enterprise is self-sufficient, relying on sales and commissions alone. Culturally, Thinking Flowers keeps the tradition of flowers in homes and celebrations alive with sustainable solutions, and uses the creation of artwork to make the city more beautiful.

Thinking Flowers' clients are a mix of social enterprises, charities and individuals, and also include exhibition collaborations with larger bodies such as

the Eden Project in Cornwall and the Tate Modern.

Siawns Teg, Wales

Siawns Teg, meaning 'Fair Chance', emerged out of a consultancy and research organisation that supported independent care providers, care homes and care provider agencies. In 2005, Siawns Teg was registered as a CLG to help support different groups with care needs based on the learning they had acquired.

They have progressively developed their activities and, alongside supporting older people in care homes, now also work with younger people and, in particular, with local migrant communities in Welshpool and Powys, such as the Roma population arrived from Slovakia. They work with migrant families to help them access services they may not otherwise know about or understand, such as housing and benefits, employment rights, and work with younger people.

Siawns Teg are also about to set up a trading arm, a CIC called Rostrum, which will sell office supplies and stationery and have a recycling capacity for white goods, providing training to local people (including groups such as ex-offenders) in Powys to undertake this, with profits used to support Siawns Teg.