

SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED FOR 10TH ANNUAL ENTERPRISING SOLUTIONS AWARDS

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For Immediate Release

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The Enterprising Solutions Awards (ESA) are designed to find and reward the UK's most successful and innovative social enterprises - businesses that are set up to tackle a social or environmental need.

Winners will be announced on October 20.

The winner of the Best Social Enterprise Award will receive a cash prize of £10,000. Three other finalists and the winner of the New Social Enterprise Award will receive £5,000 each. The winner of the newest category, Social Enterprise in Schools Award, will receive £1,000.

The past ten years of the ESA have showcased the range and power of social enterprise in the UK - from recycling and community transport companies to care providers and urban renewal projects, to last year's winner, Fairtrade company Divine Chocolate.

Chief executive of the Social Enterprise Coalition Jonathan Bland said: "These awards are instrumental in showcasing and rewarding the impact of social enterprise in the UK. In our tenth year, the range and strength of the shortlist is particularly strong, and we are really pleased that this year includes the Social Enterprise in Schools award, which we hope will inspire the next generation of socially conscious entrepreneurs.

"Social enterprise is about sustainable businesses harnessing the power of the market for the benefit of communities and individuals, and each of these businesses demonstrates the vital work being carried out by social enterprises across the UK."

******Full shortlist follows******

Notes to Editors

- The awards are run by the Social Enterprise Coalition on behalf of RBS, NatWest and the Cabinet Office, and sponsored by BT, Department of Children and

Family Services, Department of Communities and Local Government, Social Enterprise Magazine and media partner The Times.

- For interviews or further information please contact Caroline Borge on 020 7793 2318 or 07974217681 or caroline.borge@socialenterprise.org.uk, or go to <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/esa.html>
- The Social Enterprise Coalition is the UK's national body for social enterprise. Acting as the voice for the sector, it supports and represents the work of its members, influences national policy and promotes best practice. <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/>
- Social enterprises are dynamic businesses with social and environmental aims. Well known examples include The Big Issue, Café Direct and Jamie Oliver's Fifteen, but there are many other social enterprises operating in a wide range of industries from farmers markets and recycling companies to transport and childcare providers.
- According to figures from the Government's Annual Small Business Survey 2005 and existing data for the social enterprise sector, there are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK with a combined turnover of £27billion per year.

Shortlist for Best Social Enterprise Award 2008

Organisation Acumen Community Enterprise Development Trust

Date established May 2003

Location County Durham

Acumen plays a vital role in bridging the gap between public service provision and communities. *By* delivering a range of services to disadvantaged communities, it aims to address entrenched issues of low levels of employment, enterprise and skills.

Organisation BioRegional Charcoal Company Ltd

Date established 1995

Location Wallington, Surrey

BioRegional Charcoal Company Ltd (BRCC) provides locally sourced charcoal products to major retailers in order to both sustainable forestry and reduce the environmental impact of charcoal production. BRCC has calculated that the CO2 emissions generated from the transport of charcoal from producer to store can be reduced by as much as 85% where local charcoal replaces imported.

Organisation CEiS

Date established April 1984

Location Govan, Scotland

CEiS is a leading enterprise support agency that for the past two decades has been providing business support, advice and financing for social enterprises in Scotland as well as delivering a range of regeneration and development services. Along with a number of partners, they recently led the charge on organising the Social Enterprise World Forum which took place the first week of September in Edinburgh.

Organisation Disability Action Yorkshire

Date established November 1937

Location Harrogate, Yorkshire

Disability Action Yorkshire aims to empower disabled people in Yorkshire to live the lifestyle of their choosing. They aim to achieve this through the provision of services including employment and training. In addition, it also supplies residential care and support for adults with physical disabilities.

Organisation Emmaus Village Carlton

Date established December 2001

Location Village Carlton, Yorkshire

Emmaus Village Carlton is one of a number of Emmaus communities offering homeless people a home, employment and the opportunity to rebuild their lives in a supportive environment. The residents at Emmaus work full time in order to gain skills, confidence and to help them get to where they want to be.

Organisation LIVE Futures

Date established 2001

Location London

LIVE Futures' multiple ventures include LIVE Magazine, which targets a large readership of hard-to-reach young people between the ages of 12 to 21. Written and edited by young people, it is published quarterly in south London and aims to deliver positive social messages and information. LIVE also serves organisations with a remit to work with young people, and to provide journalists and other media outlets with youth opinion and insight, and a positive representation of young people.

Organisation Mid Devon Community Recycling Ltd

Date established June 1996

Location Exeter

Mid Devon Community Recycling Ltd began in 1988 as an attempt to get local government to take recycling seriously. Since then, the company has continued a fast paced growth. It makes kerbside collections of recyclable materials from 32,875 households across 93 towns and villages and provides work experience training for learning-disabled adults.

Organisation NMC Design+Print

Date established April 1991

Location Winsford, Cheshire

Based in Winsford, Cheshire, **NMC Design+Print** was established 16 years ago by the Neuromuscular Centre (NMC) to tackle the problems of social exclusion and insufficient employment opportunities for people with neuromuscular conditions.

A fundamental principle of the Company is the empowerment of the individuals for whom the organisation initially formed. 80% percent of employees and 75% of company directors have a neuromuscular condition.

Organisation The Phone Co-op

Date established 1998

Location Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire

The Phone Co-op is the UK's only telecommunications co-operative and operate on the principles of "great service, good prices, ethical business practice, social responsibility and caring for the environment." It supplies a full range of services to over 15,000 customers, all of whom have the option to become owner-members by investing a minimum of £1 in the co-operative .

Organisation The Wise Group

Date established December 1983

Location Glasgow, Scotland

The Wise Group provide a range of support, training and work experience programmes to help the long-term unemployed return to work. Based in Glasgow, the Wise Group began as small home insulation and training project in 1983 but has grown to employ 420 staff supporting people from across Scotland and the north-east of England.

Organisation Training for Life

Date established 1994

Location London

Since 1995, **Training for Life** have returned over 9,000 people previously long-term unemployed, homeless or from prison back to full-time education or employment and created more than 120 new jobs. Their aim is to foster enterprising behaviour within individuals and by creating practical learning environments in social enterprises to enable individuals to acquire pre-requisite work skills.

Organisation Women Like Us

Date established November 2004

Location London

Women Like Us trains and connects women looking for flexible work with employers who are looking for skilled, reliable part-time employees. Women Like Us was last year's winner for Best New Social Enterprise.

Shortlist for Best New Social Enterprise Award 2008

Organisation Central Surrey Health

Date established October 2006

Location East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey

Central Surrey Health Ltd is a pioneering care provider co-owned and run by the nursing and therapy teams it employs. It provides community nursing and therapy services to the people of central Surrey.

Organisation Make Believe Arts

Date established 2004

Location London

Make Believe Arts believes that all children are entitled to a high-quality artistic education. A theatre and education company, their activities are programmed to pursue artistic, social and educational aims.

Organisation Mow and Grow

Date established January 2006

Location Waveney, Suffolk

Mow and Grow is an innovative garden service based in the most deprived ward in Suffolk. It aims to help vulnerable people who cannot afford a gardener in order to reduce accidents in the home, improve their wellbeing and reduce the likelihood of being a target of crime. At the same time they provide skills and work experience and have helped 30% of their volunteers find full time work.

*******Organisation** Sunlight Social Enterprise CIC

Date established March 2006

Location Gillingham, Kent

Sunlight Social Enterprise CIC manages six different social enterprise businesses all with the common aim of serving the local community. Its services include a community radio station and a professional recording studio offering workshops to local people. All profit is re-invested into community services such as youth activities or mental health services to improve well being.

Shortlist for Best Social Enterprise in Schools Award 2008

School Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College

Date established November 2006

Location Bradford, Yorkshire

Type of school Comprehensive Secondary school

Buttershaw Business and Enterprise College is running a student-led social enterprise called Go Aqua, offering scuba diving in the on-site swimming pool at a reduced cost to the local community. The business provides pupils with the chance to develop key skills while the reduced cost on the diving has made it accessible to a wider community.

School Dunbog PS

Date established 2002

Location Fife, Scotland

Type of school: Primary school

Dunbog PS runs a social enterprise called SEED (Social Effective Enterprise@ Dunbog). SEED's various business activities have successfully raised over £6,200 much of which was sent to Doroba PS in Malawi with which Dunbog PS is linked.

School Fyndoune Community College

Date established 2005

Location Durham

Type of school: Comprehensive Secondary school

Water Works was set up by pupils at **Fyndoune Community College** to raise money to fund a well in Ghana through the sale of bottled water. Originally the brainchild of ten pupils, Water Works has expanded to ensure its continued activity and now involves all 420 of its pupils.

School Stonelaw High School

Date established November 2003

Location Glasgow, Scotland

Type of school: Comprehensive Secondary school

Stonelaw High School has successfully established a social enterprise business dealing in Fairtrade products. The efforts have been highly successful with sales in excess of £63,000 in four and a half years. Profits are sent to KwaZulu Natal, South Africa, to sponsor the education of Aids orphans.

School Thriftwood School

Date established

Location Chelmsford

Type of school: Special school for children with moderate learning difficulties and specialising in business and enterprise

Year 11 students at **Thriftwood** School run the company Butterfly Bunch, for which they design and make products as well as offer a selection of Fairtrade products for sale to the local community.

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