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BUSINESS ADVICE FOR THE SOCIAL SECTOR IN BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL

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If you need further signposting, ring Alun Severn at BSSEC on 0121 233 0278 or alun@bssec.org.uk.

1. BUSINESS ADVICE

Free or subsidised

Main publicly-funded programme for Greater Birmingham & Solihull:

The Growth Hub Covers the area of the Greater Birmingham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) and offers online registration for accessing the GBSLEP's various business support programmes. <https://www.gbslepgrowthhub.co.uk>

Community Enterprise for Success Programme (Solihull) The Community Enterprise for Success programme offers fully-funded business support to social enterprises and voluntary organisations based in Solihull. www.communityenterprise-solihull.org

iSE Offers some free community-based events, networking meetings and workshops in addition to its bespoke charged-for business support service (see below under 'Charged for'). <http://www.i-se.co.uk>

School for Social Entrepreneurs Midlands The School for Social Entrepreneurs Midlands offers learning and support programmes to social entrepreneurs that range from support for those in start-up phase through to social franchising and environmental entrepreneurs programmes.
<https://www.the-sse.org/schools/midlands/>

Solihull Sustain Support and advice specifically for third sector/voluntary groups in Solihull.
<http://solihull-sustain.org.uk>

Goldman Sachs 10,000 small businesses programme

The Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses UK programme is designed to provide high-quality, practical education and business support to leaders of high-growth small businesses and social enterprises across the country. Applicant businesses must have a turnover of at least £250,000 p.a. Check website for recruitment of cohort details. <http://www.aston.ac.uk/10ksb/>

UnLtd UnLtd is the leading provider of support to social entrepreneurs in the UK and offers the largest such network in the world. UnLtd resources hundreds of individuals each year through its core Awards programme. <https://unltd.org.uk>

Charged for

Development in Social Enterprise CIC Business support, consultancy, training for social enterprises and third sector organisations. Key provider in Solihull. Contact provider to discuss your business support needs and get a proposal of support with costs. www.disecic.org

iSE Business support, consultancy, training for social enterprises, women entrepreneurs and third sector organisations, hot-desking, co-working space. Specialists in health and social care sector. Key provider in Birmingham. Contact provider to discuss your business support needs and get a proposal of support with costs. <http://www.i-se.co.uk>

Online

The Hive The Hive is a new business support programme from Co-operatives UK and The Co-operative Bank, for people wanting to start or grow co-operative or community enterprises. It offers a mix of online resources, advice and training to help you build a better co-operative business.
<http://www.uk.coop/the-hive/>

2. NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP BODIES/NETWORKS

Co-operatives UK Co-operatives UK is the national membership and networking body for co-operative enterprises. As well as membership packages it provides specialist, tailored advice for co-operatives ranging from simple rule changes to director training to arbitration. <http://www.uk.coop>

Social Enterprise UK The national membership body for social enterprises. Membership packages include those organisations that want to work with and support the sector, including public sector organisations, charities and other kinds of social mission businesses.
<http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk>

3. OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED BY BSSEC MEMBERS

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP Birmingham city centre-based solicitors undertaking a wide variety of work for social enterprises including advice on legal structures, advice on procurement issues and contracts, employment advice, property and dispute resolution. <http://www.anthonycollins.com/>

Art Business Loans ART's remit is to ensure that viable businesses and social enterprises in the West Midlands can access the finance they need. It lends alone or alongside banks or other financiers and can signpost you to independent Business Finance specialists for advice if required. <http://artbusinessloans.co.uk>

Big Issue Invest Big Issue Invest (BII) is the social investment arm of The Big Issue. Its mission is to back sustainable social enterprises and ventures that help tackle poverty and inequality by providing loans and investments, not grants, from £50,000 to £3m. <http://bigissueinvest.com>

Brap An equalities and human rights charity, brap offers tailored, progressive, and common sense solutions to equalities research, training, and community engagement issues. Brap works with councils, schools, universities, healthcare providers, housing associations, prisons, the police service, community organisations – in fact, anyone interested in delivering more equitable services. www.brap.org.uk

Bridging to the Future Its mission is economic independence through entrepreneurship and education. Bridging to the Future promotes job creation through start-ups, business growth and sustainability. It offers leadership development, services and products for educators, individuals, businesses and organisations, English for Entrepreneurs, UK market awareness. <http://www.bridgingtothefuture.co.uk>

Business in the Community Business in the Community is the Prince's Responsible Business Network. Its members work together to tackle a wide range of issues that are essential to building a fairer society and a more sustainable future. <http://www.bitc.org.uk>

BVSC One of the largest voluntary sector support organisations in the UK, BVSC champions the voluntary sector as an influential force for positive change. It offers training, advice on funding, an 'Ask BVSC' information service, support for volunteering, third sector networking and services such as payroll and accounts preparation. www.bvsc.org

Cloudberry Innovation & Development Cloudberry helps individuals, social enterprises, communities and businesses identify and implement strategies to encourage growth through innovative product solutions; hands on interim or project management; networking events and business development tools. Includes periodic Social Enterprise Mentor events in various WM locations. <http://www.cloudberry.org.uk>

Colebridge Trust Key Solihull provider of voluntary sector and social enterprise support, employability and workplace skills training, community development. Its aim is to address social, economic and environmental deprivation and improve the life chances of all of Solihull's communities. <http://colebridge.org> and <https://colent.org>

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The Jericho Foundation The Jericho Foundation supports people to become fulfilled, skilled and employed. It operates social enterprises offering print, catering, construction, landscaping/maintenance, cleaning, recycling, retailing/re-use. www.jericho.org.uk

Kajans Women's Enterprise Aims to create a sustainable, culturally attractive and fully accessible arts, education and enterprise centre in Aston, Birmingham. From this base Kajans will improve the quality and breadth of existing arts, education and enterprise provision to current and new users. <http://www.kajans.co.uk>

RnR Organisation A small 'tech for good' social enterprise, supporting the use of technology and data for impact and social justice in the collaborative economy. It works especially with organisations interested in using digital skills, tools and data to work smarter in asset-based community development programmes. <http://www.rnrorganisation.co.uk>

Roots HR CIC The UK's first social enterprise delivering human resources consultancy services to small and medium-sized civil society organisations. It provides affordable, tailored support and advice in all areas of people management and employment law and as part of its social mission offers a free introductory 1-hour email or phone support session to any civil society organisation. <http://www.rootshr.org.uk>

Spot On Marketing & Communications CIC Affordable and accessible marketing and communications services to support civil society organisations across Birmingham and Solihull. <http://www.spotonmarketing.org.uk/wp/>

Unity Trust Bank The bank for organisations and businesses that aim to create community, social or environmental benefit in a financially sustainable way. It seeks to put social change at the heart of everything it does by offering specialist banking and finance to organisations that have a positive impact on their communities. <https://www.unity.co.uk>

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