

The logo for SSSEN (Sheffield Social Enterprise Network) features the letters 'S', 'S', 'E', and 'N' in a large, black, sans-serif font. Each letter has a small, colorful triangle (blue, green, orange, and yellow respectively) pointing towards it. To the right of the letters is a vertical bar.

SHEFFIELD
SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE
NETWORK

What's Our Impact?

2020-2021

www.ssen.org.uk

Introduction

In 2020 Sheffield Social Enterprise Network (SSEN) moved from being volunteer-led to bringing in our first paid worker. This change not only meant that SSEN could be more readily available to our social enterprises, but we were able to be more present within the city and offer more ways to support and advocate for the sector.

Thanks to funding from the National Lottery and becoming a partner in the Social Enterprise Exchange consortium, we were able to employ a Network Coordinator who would be able to take us through the next stage of our journey.

We know how important it is for social enterprises to demonstrate their social impact and regularly spend time supporting others to do this.

As a key measurement of the impact we are having in Sheffield and the wider region, this brief report will give you an overview of what we achieved during 2020-2021 and why our work is important to our local sector.

Sharing our Knowledge

With many places to go to for advice on how to grow your business and other forms of organisations, there are few in the Sheffield Region that understand the social enterprise sector as we do. With a wide understanding and vast knowledge of the sector both locally and nationally, we strive to make sure that we share this knowledge with those working in and with the sector so that together we can make it stronger.

In 2020-2021 we made sure this knowledge was shared with our social enterprises and individuals, supporting them through Covid-19 and the difficulties they faced.

Over 1400 individuals in the sector received our monthly newsletter.

A Social Enterprise Festival

As part of the Social Enterprise Exchange programme, we worked with our partners; CM Solutions, Sheffield Live!, Cultural Industries Quarter Agency and South Yorkshire's Community Foundation, to put together an online social enterprise festival during the week of International Social Enterprise Day.

The festival included speakers from organisations like Social Enterprise UK and Key Fund as well as many of our local social enterprises sharing their work and discussing key topics important to the sector. Some of these topics included resetting our communities, the environment and equality and diversity.

4 days of online events.
9 online sessions in one week.
78 attendees from Sheffield Region and beyond.

Our Events

Being a part of a community is important to our social enterprises, many of whom are SMEs and micro businesses. We know it can be lonely growing any type of company, and our events are a way to bring those in the sector together to network, feel supported and learn from one another, in turn strengthening organisations and the wider sector.

Unable to deliver in-person events, due to Covid-19 restrictions, we successfully delivered 16 online events as a response to the pandemic; offering space for online networking, support and sharing our knowledge to help in the response and recovery.

**16 events delivered.
214 people attended our
regular support and
networking events
throughout the year.**

SSEN Membership

As a members organisation, our members are crucial to our success and a key part of our work. Everything we do is with our members in mind, from events to development support and advocacy.

In 2020 we launched our new membership for Social Enterprise Exchange clients, offering individuals and social enterprises 6 months free membership when registered onto the Social Enterprise Exchange programme. In turn, this helped to make our membership even more accessible to start-up social enterprises and those wanting to grow.

**Membership sign ups
increased by
167%**

A Voice for the Sector

During 2020-2021 our online networking events not only encouraged networking, whilst giving out important information to help our sector through the Covid-19 pandemic, but they were used as a way for us to hear from our social enterprises and respond to their needs.

Consultation during this period included regular conversations with our members and supporting them in advocating for their needs and sitting at leadership round tables.

We intend to expand our consultation with stakeholders in the years ahead and spend even more time listening to our members.

Lobbying on behalf of social enterprises on various issues, including access to Bounce Back Loans, funding and Kickstart

Sector Succession

Young people are important to the succession of our sector, and we continue to get them engaged in a wide range of ways; from talks to young people about the sector to partnerships with both Sheffield universities. We continue to develop this work further as we move ahead, offering more opportunities in the sector for the young people in the city.

Through the citywide Kickstart partnership, in 2020 to 2021, we helped 11 Social Enterprises secure Kickstart positions, giving 31 young people experience of working within the sector in the region.

This included leading the way and taking on our own Kickstart young person to work with SSEN.

**11 Social Enterprises supported to take Kickstart placements.
30 young people given a Kickstart placement in the sector.**

Always There

Founded by professionals and volunteers working with, and running social enterprises in the city, SSEN was created in 2011 to bring together and create a support network for social enterprises in Sheffield and its surrounding areas, providing a place for networking, sharing knowledge and offering support to social entrepreneurs. In 2018 SSEN became a Community Interest Company and developed the work further bringing in a Network Coordinator in 2020.

With new social enterprises being set up during the Covid-19 pandemic nationally, South Yorkshire was no exception. The sector has continued to grow, charities are looking for ways to be enterprising, and we continue to be here supporting the sector throughout.

An ongoing presence in the city and region supporting with the needs of the social enterprise sector.

Thank you to all of our partners and funders that have helped to make our work possible



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