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Sheffield Social Enterprise Network creates Specialist Support Programme in Sheffield

Sheffield City Council (SCC) has commissioned the Sheffield Social Enterprise Network (SSEN) to create the Social Enterprise Growth Accelerator (SEGA).

In partnership with Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and the South Yorkshire Community Foundation (SYCF), the programme provides specialist business support and advice for social enterprises in Sheffield.

The programme will aim to create at least 30 new social enterprises in Sheffield, whilst providing expert advice and support to a minimum of 100 established social enterprises in the city.

Funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), part of the government's Levelling Up agenda, through the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA), SEGA covers four key topics: **engagement and diagnostic, specialist support, marketing and communication, referrals and networking.**

As a priority, SCC has identified the provision of specialist, targeted assistance to support the startup, survival, growth and scale-up of the wider social enterprise sector within Sheffield.

Terry Murphy, CEO of the Sheffield Social Enterprise Network, said: "The SEGA programme will facilitate the development of a more connected Social Enterprise sector and support Social Entrepreneurs to develop the skills and knowledge they need.

"We'll be welcoming more and more organisations into our network in the coming years as charities are forced to become more enterprising and businesses forced to become more social.

"Through SEGA, Social Enterprises can demonstrate that they can be the city's trailblazers, galvanising the changes necessary to shape the future of Britain's economy into a sustainable one."

Louisa Harrison-Walker, CEO of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said: "One of Sheffield's strengths is its thriving social enterprise sector and with collaboration at the heart of everything we do at the Chamber, initiatives like this are exactly what we're all about.

"Social enterprises are a wonderful example of businesses operating as a force for good so it's great to be able to contribute our collective business expertise to this cause. SSEN's impact across the city, of which SEGA is a part, is vital to ensure Sheffield can be a hub for social enterprises.

"We're delighted to have partnered with them and SYCF to see the aims of the commission come to reality."



Ruth Willis, CEO of the South Yorkshire Community Foundation, said: “SYCF are looking forward to working with all the partners to the SEGA programme. This collaboration between key organisations within Sheffield will lead to a coordinated approach for social enterprise support.

“Through the programme, SYCF will be delivering a small grants programme of 30 grants to social enterprise start-ups, ensuring that they have the resources that they need to become resilient and to grow.

“Limited numbers of grants are currently available through SYCF and not for start-ups, so this is a valuable source of income for the sector. We anticipate a high take up of the grants on offer”.

Councillor Martin Smith, Chair of the Economic Development and Skills Committee at Sheffield City Council, said: “Social enterprises do a lot of good for this city and we are grateful for what they achieve. That’s why it is vital that they have the support they need to thrive. The Council has commissioned the Social Enterprise Growth Accelerator to provide this support and encourage innovation in this important sector of our economy.”

SSEN is the established membership organisation for Social Enterprise (SEs) in Sheffield. SCCI, another membership organisation for businesses in Sheffield will offer membership benefits to all social enterprises who join the SEGA programme.

To apply to be part of the SEGA programme contact the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce Membership hub on 0114 201 8888 between 9am and 5pm (Monday to Friday). Their membership team will sign you up for full chamber of commerce membership benefits and book a discovery meeting with an advisor at the Sheffield Social Enterprise Network who will review your specific social enterprise needs and signpost you to the full range of support available as part of the SEGA programme that includes specialist consultancy support.

ENDS



Notes to Editor:

About Sheffield Chamber

Sheffield Chamber leads the way in making Sheffield the best place to start, grow and run a successful and sustainable business. They provide support, advice, expertise, and representation for businesses of all sizes and have been doing so for over 150 years.

About the Sheffield Social Enterprise Network

Sheffield Social Enterprise Network's (SSEN) vision is for Sheffield to be a hub for Social Enterprises and for them to be a part of delivering a strong social, environmental, and economic impact for the city and wider Sheffield City Region. For more information on SSEN and its work, visit its website at:

<https://www.ssen.org.uk/>

About South Yorkshire Community Foundation

South Yorkshire's Community Foundation (SYCF) helps individuals and businesses who want to give generously to support income generation for its wide-ranging grant programme.

For more information on South Yorkshire Community Foundation and its work, visit its website at: <https://www.sycf.org.uk/>

This news release has been prepared by Altitude on behalf of [Sheffield Chamber of Commerce](#).

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