



FAB Family Centre CIC

FAB Family Centre CIC was founded by Dorota Zak, Mariola, and Ewelina, who identified a gap in culturally appropriate support for children, young people, and families—particularly those from the Eastern European community in Oldham—experiencing additional needs. Their ambition was to create a community-led organisation, based at the Oldham Polish Catholic Centre, that could deliver high-quality, sustainable services and empower families through tailored support and activities.

The group was committed to establishing a Community Interest Company (CIC) and approached a member of Action Together's Capacity Building team who identified support was required in the following areas:

- Understanding legal structures and CIC registration
- Policy, governance, and operational requirements
- Establishing local networks and connections

E26 Thematic Areas:

Financial & Legal Support, Collaborative Networks & Innovation / Access to Specialists

Type of Support

Action Together Capacity Building Support

- Initially focused on CIC registration, policy development etc.
- Informed of the E26 offer and encouraged the group to enrol on the Social Accelerator Programme (aimed at start-ups / early stage social enterprises).
- Continuing support to work toward Action Together's Quality in Action Award; a locally recognised framework for VCFSE organisations working across Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside, demonstrating their commitment to safeguarding, quality assurance and continuous improvement.

1:1 Consultancy Support & Training: Social Accelerator Programme

This programme, delivered by Mantle, aims to enhance sustainability, diversify income streams, and develop robust business models for social enterprises. Format includes x6 online cohort sessions and 2 1:1 sessions. Upon completion of the programme Action Together will work with Mantle and FAB Family Centre to identify priorities and any further support needs.

Outcomes:

- FAB Family Centre CIC is now a formally registered organisation (as of 13 June 2025) with a clear vision and growing community presence.
- The group successfully delivered its first community activity in August 2025 and is actively engaging with local networks and training opportunities.
- The Social Accelerator Programme provided essential frameworks and tailored guidance, especially around Theory of Change, helping clarify the organisation's vision and structure.
- The founders have developed strong foundations in governance, policy, and community engagement, and feel confident about their future as a sustainable, community-led organisation.
- The group continues to be supported by Action Together to work towards the Quality in Action Award and explore further funding and partnership opportunities

Insights and Lessons:

- Early-stage, tailored support is crucial for new social enterprises, especially around legal structure, governance, and business model development.
- Small group learning and collaborative meetings enable founders to ask questions, build confidence, and receive relevant advice.
- Embedding in local networks and accessing specialist consultants can significantly boost organisational clarity and sustainability.
- Other SE organisations should consider the value of accelerator programmes, ongoing membership in supportive networks, and quality assurance frameworks.



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Reflections:

"When we began the journey to build our dream of opening a family centre, the process was very confusing. [Action Together] has been incredible – [they] guided us through every stage of the setup process with patience, kindness, and professionalism. We felt safe, confident, and reassured that everything was being done correctly, without stress or costly mistakes."

"The Mantle Social Enterprise course has been an incredibly valuable experience. As part of a small learning group, I had plenty of opportunities to ask questions and receive tailored guidance. The programme helped me clarify my vision, and I now have a clear 'picture frame' of what my social enterprise will look like. I highly recommend this course to anyone looking to bring their social mission to life with confidence and structure."

Link: <https://www.actiontogether.org.uk/se-support> <https://www.facebook.com/people/FAB-Family-Centre/61578295769219/>

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