



Salford Social Enterprise Network – Social Enterprise Day Event 20th November 2025

Salford CVS has been working with the Salford Business Group supporting an informal Social Enterprise Network for several years with the quarterly Social Enterprise SUP Meeting (held in the evenings). Through the E26 project we have been able to expand this to hosting quarterly Social Enterprise Breakfast events. During the 2025 / 26 year, as part of this initiative, we have previously hosted a Social Enterprise breakfast in May 2025 at Community Little Hulton's new pavilion building in Little Hulton, and at the Mental Marathon in September 2025. The locations are deliberate to help raise the profile of local VCSE organisations.

These events are planned to dovetail with the Salford Social Enterprise SUP events, which are held quarterly and, which are held in the evenings.

Quarter our Breakfast Meeting event was held at Arts Let Loose CIC in Swinton to celebrate Social Enterprise Day on 20th November 2025.

This quarter we decided to host the event on Social Enterprise Day, 20th November 2025 event. The venue we selected was Arts Let Loose CIC based in Swinton shopping centre, which is spacious and fully accessible. This is a great venue, on main public transport routes with both buses and trains nearby, as well as free parking at the nearby ASDA store. The catering for the breakfast was provided by another CIC, the Mental Marathon MCR CIC, as we are committed to spend as much as we can within the VCSE sector.

The theme of the event was income diversification and invited Joe Chlebig from 0161 Education CIC and Leigh Matts from Ability Cooperative to share their experiences with the participants.

0161 Education CIC shared their experience of becoming part of the Salford Alternative Education Provider Framework, and how that has helped them diversify their income streams. As a result they have had to move to a bigger premises to meet the demand, Joe has been able to work full time at the CIC, and we have commissioned them to provide consultancy support other VCSE's who want to apply to be on the Alternative Education Provider framework.

Ability Cooperative is based in Irlam which runs an adult social care provision for adults with learning disabilities, as well as Princes Park Garden Centre. Not only do they have income generation through the adult social care contracts and garden centre, but also through their commissions to deliver mossland regeneration work Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Natural England. This is an excellent example of how they have integrated their social mission with income generation activities.



The venue was open for breakfast from 08:45am with the event starting at 09:30am and lasting until 11:00am.

The agenda for the event was as follows:

- 08:45 to 09:30 Breakfast and Networking
- 09:30 to 10:00 Housekeeping, and Introduction from CVS Staff and the attendees
- 10:00 to 10:45 Presentation on income generation from

Joe Chlebig – 0161 Education CIC – on Alternative Education Provision

Leigh Matts – Ability Cooperative – Income diversification

- 10:45 to 11:00 Update on Training, CVS Grants and Social Enterprise Events – Martyn Willcock
- 11:00 to 11:05 Any other business and networking

The menu was vegetarian/vegan to comply with Salford CVS's commitment to the plant base treaty.



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Outcomes:

The event was attended by delegates 22 delegates from a number of new CIC's and a few potential social entrepreneurs / start-ups. Several of delegates had not attended a Social Enterprise Network event previously, so it was great to engage with new social enterprises or organisations in their early developmental stage.

After the formal part of the meeting officially closed, an additional hour was spent with the groups networking and discussing potential collaborative working.

Several of the delegates are attending the next Social Enterprise SUP event on Thursday 18th December at the Deli Lama café at Islington Mill.

Some delegates have also expressed interest in receiving support to apply for the Alternative Education Provision Framework and have been invited to attend workshops in January 2026 to explore how to apply.

Link: <https://www.salfordcvs.co.uk/social-enterprise-salford>

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