

We are proud to announce our Founder Members

Our Founder Members are supporting SEWM as the leading business network and primary destination for social enterprise in the West Midlands. Our vision is show how private, public, social enterprise and third sector partners can work together to 'do business differently'. Together, we want to be leading the way. www.socialenterprisewm.org.uk



“ As a Flagship Social Enterprise, Halo Leisure fully endorses the ongoing and valuable work that SEWM will be undertaking to represent and support social enterprises large and small. We feel that there has never been a better time for this business model to show what it can achieve and we wish the team well.”

Jon Argent | Halo Leisure | www.haloleisure.org.uk

Halo Leisure was established in 2002. It is the major leisure provider and enabler within the county of Herefordshire. It manages nine leisure centres under long-term leases from the Herefordshire Council and works in partnership with the Royal National College for the Blind in Hereford and the Severn Centre Trust in Highley, Shropshire, to operate services on their behalf. It also has a consultancy arm, which provides a range of services to the leisure and cultural sector nationally, covenanting profits back to the charity. Halo has over 1.7 million customer visits each year.



“ Citizen Enterprises CIC is proud to be a Founder Member and a supporter of SEWM. A strong regional voice for social enterprise, helping us to spread the message that social enterprises operate for 'more than profit' and that we can step up to the challenge of supplying goods and services that are equal or better than those supplied by others.”

Martin Hogg | Citizen Enterprises CIC | www.citizencoaching.com

Citizen Enterprises CIC uses the profits from five sustainable micro businesses to fund local community projects around well-being and community cohesion. Social Media Marketing Made Easy provides cutting edge social media and internet marketing that helps businesses to increase their sales and profits. Citizen Coaching and Counselling provides one to one and group well-being services from The Custard Factory in Birmingham. Grow my Practice helps 'solo-preneurs' set up successful therapy businesses. My Anger Coach provides online, home study and live anger management courses to people of all ages across the UK and further afield.



“ The West Midlands Chambers of Commerce LLP is pleased to become a founder member of SEWM. We look forward to working with SEWM to raise awareness of the social enterprise sector and to promote the opportunities and benefits which exist for social enterprise and private sector organisations to collaborate and work in partnership for mutual benefit.

Helen Phillips | West Midlands Chamber of Commerce LLP | www.wmchambers.co.uk

West Midlands Chambers of Commerce LLP is a joint initiative by the region's six Chambers of Commerce. It provides a single point of contact and contracting on behalf of the Chambers in the West Midlands and holds substantial contracts for the delivery of core government services across the region such as UK Trade & Investment and also regional programmes on behalf of Advantage West Midlands and Business Link West Midlands. Our ambition is to be the first choice delivery partner for the delivery of specialised and targeted front line business support.



“ Unity Trust is delighted and proud to be a Founder Member of Social Enterprise West Midlands CIC, and we look forward to being your banking partner of choice.”

Nigel Price | Unity Trust Bank | www.unity.co.uk

As a specialist, socially responsible bank for charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises, Unity Trust Bank finds the right banking solution for you, so that you can concentrate on achieving your goals. Unity's strength lies in its understanding and support of the key issues affecting its customers in the social economy.

From day-to-day banking, to providing finance for a variety of sustainable projects, Unity supports, and works in partnership with, a number of social enterprises across the West Midlands and the UK, to help underpin their long term development.

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“ Rubus is proud to be a Founder Member of SEWM CIC. Its ongoing commitment to champion the sector in the region and across the UK reflects our own belief in the power of social enterprise to create opportunities and change lives. SEWM has a vital role to play in opening doors and creating connections for social enterprises. We can't wait to see what's possible!”

Liz Watkins-Young | Rubus | www.rubus-services.com

Rubus is a value-creating consultancy that focuses on people and excellence. With a long track record of supporting social enterprise growth and development, we understand the highs and lows of balancing social mission with sustainable business. We support our clients through strategic planning, market research, feasibility, business planning, operational development, marketing and branding, public procurement readiness, governance improvement and outcomes management.



“ Concept, Action for Blind People's social enterprise in the West Midlands, welcomes SEWM's move to an independent membership organisation providing a voice for members in the region. We look forward to supporting and working with SEWM as it continues to raise the profile of social enterprises in the West Midlands and the contribution they make to the UK social economy.”

Mark Ellerby | Action for Blind People | www.conceptconferencecentre.com

Concept. Action for Blind People's social enterprise in the West Midlands provides competitively priced conferencing, catering and training services to business from our bases in Birmingham, Stafford and Stoke. Our team of skilled and trained staff have built a reputation on high quality products and award winning service, whilst maintaining our social aims to help blind or partially sighted people into hospitality and catering.



“ I am genuinely excited by the opportunity to help SEWM CIC lead the way for the region's social enterprises, and I look forward to sharing my experience and knowledge to unlock the potential that exists across the West Midlands and beyond.”

Geoff Walker | Sandwell Community Care Trust | www.sandwellcct.org.uk

Sandwell Community Caring Trust is a social enterprise based in the Midlands and the South West, which cares for over 700 disabled and disadvantaged children and adults. The Trust was created in April 1997 and now employs 450 staff and has care contracts in excess of £12.5 million per year. Geoff and the Trust are at the forefront of the social enterprise movement and regularly meet with government ministers to discuss the benefits that such organisations can bring to the delivery for public services.



“ We are delighted to be hosting the launch of SEWM CIC and we are proud to become a Founder Member of this new business. We can see great opportunities for our students, parents, staff and the local community as we look to explore opportunities that social enterprise provides in an education and learning setting and look forward to working with the team at Social Enterprise West Midlands.”

Caroline Badyal | Principal | www.q3academy.org.uk

Q3 Academy specialises in Design and Enterprise, and sees this as an essential requirement in raising student aspirations throughout the whole Academy. The curriculum which has a focus on Design and Enterprise aims to promote exciting, stimulating and innovative learning opportunities for all students, through a wide range of opportunity in lessons, raising achievement at all levels. Respect and care for one another is central to our philosophy, supporting students in developing a strong sense of responsibility and a real desire to play a full and active role in their community. We relish the opportunity to work with these young people as they develop into successful, resourceful and enterprising individuals.

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“ City College Coventry is really proud to be a Founder Member of SEWM. It is imperative that we are able to equip our students - young people and adults - with the skills to enable them to really make an impact on their futures. Together we can widen opportunities, bridge gaps and spread the social enterprise message.”

Carrie Smith | City College Coventry | www.covcollege.ac.uk

City College Coventry recognises the imperative to move to a more sustainable approach to developing social enterprise within the College. Working with SEWM we will embed and promote opportunities bringing great benefits to the social and economic wellbeing of our students. The College wants the with SEWM and the partners to create a paradigm shift in thinking across the fe sector, to effect a major change in practice, attitudes, and operation. Together we can really begin to make a difference.



“ Harris & Harris Accountancy Services are pleased to be a founder member of SEWM CIC. We are passionate about social enterprise and committed to reinvesting surpluses in the local community, and look forward to working with SEWM CIC to enhance the role social enterprise plays regionally.”

Heidi Harris | Harris & Harris Accountancy Services CIC | www.harrisaccountancy.co.uk

Harris & Harris Accountancy Services CIC is a nationally recognised specialist in supporting social enterprises, Community Interest Companies, charities and voluntary groups, and offers accountancy, training, impact reporting services and consultancy support. Harris & Harris Accountancy Services CIC is the UK's only firm of Chartered Accountants that is also a CIC.



“ The Trident Group has a long history of providing services to disadvantaged groups including housing, caring and support services and this has been achieved partly by working in partnership with like-minded organisations. As a pioneer of the creation of social enterprises, we welcome the opportunity of working with Social Enterprise West Midlands. We believe that today more than ever, social enterprises have the power to make a genuine impact, as they play a key role in revitalising communities.”

John Morris | Chief Executive, Trident Group | www.trident-ha.org.uk

Trident sees people and partnerships as being at the heart of everything we do. We believe that by involving residents in activities relating to their home and communities we can improve people's life chances and quality of life. Our overall aim for Trident Housing Association is to continually improve the quality and value of everything we do.

Pat Brandum | WM Housing | www.wmhousing.co.uk



WM Housing is one of the largest and most successful housing groups in the Midlands providing homes to over 24,000 people and families and with a turnover of £90 million a year. We were formed in 2009 following the integration of the West Mercia Housing Group and Whitefriars Housing and we now operate across the West Midlands in Coventry, Birmingham, Herefordshire and Worcestershire.