

# “Social Enterprise & Big Society”



## Programme

### Big Society Symposium

**18th October 2010**

**Deaf Cultural Centre, Birmingham**

**9.00am—1.00pm**



growing the **social economy**

# “Social Enterprise and Big Society”

Birmingham is the largest local authority in Europe and reports very high levels of unemployment and issues of social cohesion. Similarly the West Midlands has been severely affected by the recession and faces huge regeneration challenges.

Clearly the Big Society does and will play an increasingly fundamental role. However individuals, agencies and organisations are struggling with how to turn the concept of Big Society into practice and in particular with understanding the role of social enterprise within this agenda.

This aim of this event is to work with key stakeholders in the social enterprise sector [national and local] to explore how social enterprise can play a leading role in the Big Society.

Specifically the event will explore:

- The political and policy context for Big Society and its interpretations
- Social Enterprise and its impact on society
- The potential for growing the social enterprise sector
- Creating an environment for growth of social enterprise

The organisers of the event are a leading social enterprise and a social enterprise development organisation working strategically and operationally across the West Midlands and nationally.

We anticipate that approximately 80 people will be attending the event. Attendees will be from the public sector [local authorities, health, police, fire services], private sector, infrastructure organisations, social enterprises, community organisations and trading voluntary and community sector organisations.



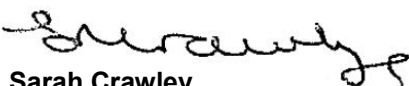
The event venue is a social enterprise that creates employment for people who are hearing impaired.

A report will be produced from the event which will be disseminated locally and nationally that will provide people already working in social enterprise and those looking to move into the social enterprise sector, a context for their work. We anticipate that this will be an extremely valuable document.

## Background to ISE

ISE has been delivering services to social enterprises since December 1998. The organisation delivers support locally, regionally and nationally developing the social enterprise sector and trading voluntary and community sector with the emphasis on markets, collaboration, sustainability and new start ups. The delivery of infrastructure support is funded in the majority through contracts for services. ISE works with over 200 social enterprises across the region that provides services and products to the public, private and social enterprise sectors and to individual purchasers. We are seeing increasing demand for our services and see our work as essential in the current climate of public sector cuts.

We do hope that you will be able to join us for this event. I look forward to meeting you in October.



Sarah Crawley  
CEO, ISE



# Programme Outline

- 9.00am**      **Registration, tea, coffee and networking**
- 9.30am**      **Opening address and welcome**  
*Chair - To be confirmed*
- 9.40am**      **Thoughts on Big Society**
- **Housing in Big Society**  
*Jas Bains, Chief Executive, Ashram Housing Association*
  - **Unemployment, Social Exclusion and Big Society**  
*Sally Reynolds, Chief Executive, Social Firms UK*
  - **Potential of growth of Social Enterprise and Big Society**  
*Gerry Higgins, Chief Executive, CEiS*
  - **A national perspective on Social Enterprise and Big Society**  
*Dr Dick Atkinson M.B.E., Chief Executive, Balsall Heath Forum*
- 11.10am**      **Coffee and Networking**
- 11.40am**      **Interactive Session**  
*Facilitator: Sarah Crawley, CEO, iSE*
- 12.45pm**      **Plenary**
- 1.00pm**      **Lunch**
- 2.00pm**      **Close**

Sponsored by:



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