Social Enterprise PLACES

FORTH VALLEY

Stirling, Falkirk & Clackmannanshire

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND

Social Enterprise Scotland Introduction

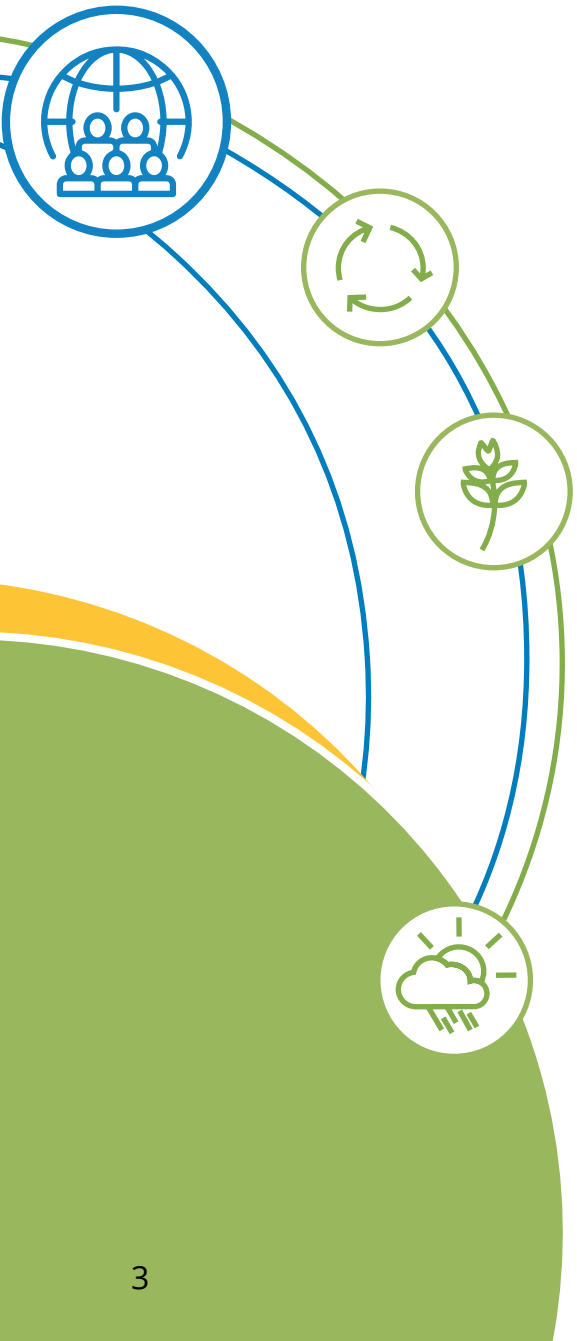
Social Enterprise Scotland is delighted to recognise and celebrate Forth Valley as a Social Enterprise Place and to be recognised for the impact social enterprises are making in revitalising local communities. Through the programme we aim to promote, raise awareness and help to build markets for social enterprises.

The case studies highlighted showcase the diversity of social enterprises thriving in Forth Valley. The entrepreneurial activities and services of these organisations are making a huge difference to people's lives across the area. Their contribution is recognised towards revitalising local communities.

We congratulate the local SEN, supported by the three Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) who work closely together to support the sector. They are raising awareness of how social enterprise is contributing to community, economic development and becoming a Social Enterprise Place, showing their commitment to unlocking the potential of social enterprise in the local area.

Chris Martin, CEO, Social Enterprise Scotland

Social Enterprise in Forth Valley



Social Enterprises have always been part of the fabric of our local authority areas in Forth Valley – especially in more rural communities. The importance of the Social Enterprise Places Award is that it highlights, that by working together, the three TSIs have collectively developed a strong and evolving SEN that has raised the profile of social enterprises across the region and given them a voice. That movement aligns with the emerging community wealth-building agenda being developed by the Scottish Government and being piloted across the Forth Valley area. Through the Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network, and its online directory, we have seen increased awareness and more peer networking between social enterprises, as well as a steady growth of newly-established social enterprises.

Anthea Coulter, Chief Officer, Clackmannanshire TSI

Key Stakeholders and Partners

Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network (FVSEN) is a network of social enterprises supported by the Third Sector Interfaces (TSIs) working across Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire local authority areas.

The network organisations work closely with all three Local Authorities to ensure that social enterprise models are understood by strategic partners and shape decisions around community development. Social enterprises are valued and recognised as key delivery partners for the role they play in supporting economic regeneration and community wealth-building.

Collectively the work of social enterprises and partners in Forth Valley is innovative, aspirational and takes a community-first approach to business. There are new and exciting initiatives developing to meet the needs of tourism, care and climate challenge where social enterprises are embedding ethical business approaches into communities, helping them thrive in the long term.

Forth Valley - Our Place

The **Forth Valley** region comprises the three local authorities, **Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire**: stretching across the heart of Scotland.

It is a diverse region, made up of urban and rural settlements and areas. The area is steeped in history and heritage, from the famous Towers and mining villages of Clackmannanshire, to the world-famous **Stirling Castle.**

With a population of around **300,000**, the area is growing, made up of families, professionals, and students but with a significant ageing population in Clackmannanshire and rural Stirlingshire.

It is home to **Forth Valley College t**hat delivers more than **750 courses** from campuses in **Alloa, Falkirk and Stirling.**

The international **University of Stirling**, is leading on work around dementia, the environment and is **Scotland's University for Sporting Excellence**. It is also working closely in partnership with the Local Authorities on the City Region and Growth Deals.

Case Studies

Stirling

Dial-a-Journey

Not just a transport service!

- Provides affordable and accessible transport for residents in the Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Council areas.
- Now a diverse twenty-two vehicle operation with over thirty staff providing door-to-door transport, self-drive minibus and Shopmobility services.
- Offers new days trip services for older people.

Positive Changes (Scotland) CIC - makers of Grace Chocolates

Supporting women who have touched the criminal justice system to make positive changes.

- Through high-end chocolate making providing opportunities for education, workplace skills, raising self-esteem and confidence.
- Offers programmes tailored to suit women who are choosing to make positive changes in their lives, while improving their health and wellbeing.
- Sells delicious handmade chocolates online to consumers including retailers, hamper companies and corporate organisations.

Radical Weavers

Radical Wavers is a Scottish charity helping survivors of trauma or loss and those at risk of social isolation.

- Offers therapeutic crafting activities within a trauma-informed community including weaving, sewing, machine knitting and felting.
- Produces a range of unique Scottish-themed kits designed and manufactured in-house and using sustainable materials.
- Provides opportunities for employment for people who have experienced trauma or loss.

Equi-Scotia CIC

Equine Facilitated Learning & Psychotherapy services in central Scotland.

- Equi-Scotia is an SQA approved centre delivering Scotland's first accredited training for practitioners in Equine Facilitated Learning at SCQF level 8.
- Provides online learning for practitioners supporting mental wellness through non riding activities with horses
- Collaborates on projects with member groups of the Riding for the Disabled Association, upskilling coaches and volunteers in approaches supporting mental health whilst providing these charities with new income streams.

Case Studies

Falkirk

Bailliefields Community Hub

Bailliesfields Community Hub grew out of Westquarter & Redding Cricket Club which has been part of the local community for over 110 years.

- Creates a ‘place for all’ where everyone belongs, and all activities have a social element.
- Brings the community together by making cricket available to everyone, promoting inclusion, equality and health & wellbeing.
- Works in partnership with other local community groups to further develop activities and facilities that further enhance health and well-being.

Pause & Breathe CIC

Pause & Breathe CIC is a not-for-profit organisation providing wellbeing services to improve physical, mental and emotional health.

- Brings together like-minded people, as part of an online community, helping people to reprioritise self-care and gain balance in their lives.
- Through their new centre near Bonnybridge, Pause & Breathe CIC are looking forward to providing additional support to the local community.

Grangemouth High School – Social Enterprise Schools Programme

Social Enterprise Schools Programme (supported by the Social Enterprise Academy).

- Grangemouth Guardian Angels, set up by local high school pupils, sells handmade fused-glass products such as jewellery and framed art.
- By running community workshops through the school year they aim to raise awareness and help to tackle social isolation and loneliness in their community.

Case Studies

Clackmannanshire

Alloa Community Enterprises (ACE)

Alloa Community Enterprises(ACE) is a well-loved charity which has been giving new life to pre-loved furniture and household goods for over 35 years.

- Through their Remakery venture, Alloa Community Enterprises upcycles furniture for resale.
- The project diverts furniture from landfill and provides training in a range of related arts areas.
- Provides volunteering and work placement opportunities for people with barriers to work including mental health and wellbeing challenges.

Alloa Hub Limited

Alloa Hub Limited was the first Community Benefit Society in Clackmannanshire and now has approximately 100 individuals and organisations registered as shareholders.

- Home to the Clackmannanshire Tapestry, a community arts project that involved over 40 stitchers.
- The Hub provides information on active travel, heritage and local tourism.
- Operates a high-quality gift shop including a ‘Made in Clacks’ range.
- Offers workshops space for rental.

Resonate Together

- Enables people to live fulfilling lives; build connections and strengthen resilience across the community; nurturing the natural environment and developing a sense of belonging.
- Delivers a wide range of creative, health and participation clubs and projects, events and festivals and contractual work.
- International award winners: Euclid Network for European Top 100 Women, Social Enterprise of 2021 and founded the first Alloa Branch of the United Nations Association, Scotland (2022).

Resilience Learning Partnership

Resilience Learning Partnership are a Clackmannanshire-based Education and Training Provider, working across the health, social care, education, housing & criminal justice sectors.

- They are a training and education organisation specialising in psychological trauma and lived experience.
- Their courses and learning approaches include self-care, exploring skills and goals, creating a greater understanding of trauma and building positive relationships.
- 95% of their workforce have lived experienced psychological trauma; everyone is valued for their contributions and supported to reach their potential, realising aspirations, building social capital and influencing change where it matters.

Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network - The Future

Stimulating Social Enterprise

- The Forth Valley Social Enterprise Network (FVSEN), facilitated by the three TSIs will work collaboratively with other partner groups such as regional Business Gateways and national organisations that support community enterprise, to provide the wrap-around service and support that social entrepreneurs and community organisations need to flourish.

Developing Stronger Organisations

The FVSEN, supported by the TSIs will:

- Continue to expand and develop the FVSEN online directory and promote social enterprises through a wide number of marketing streams.
- Develop the evaluation and social impact reporting skills of social enterprises and an enterprising third sector to assist with evidencing the difference they make in the community.
- Take a regional approach to training in order to develop volunteers, trustees and staff to operate successful social enterprises, sharing best practice, good governance and robust financial management.

Realising Market Opportunity

- We will continue to grow the public-facing online directory, accompanied by a clear social enterprise brand that unifies and provides confidence for the ethical consumer.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND

Clackmannanshire Council

Falkirk Council

Stirling Council

FVSEN

Royal Bank of Scotland

The Scottish Government

SCOTLAND'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISE STRATEGY
Supporting Scotland's Social Enterprise Strategy 2016-26

www.socialenterprise.scot

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