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Supported Business Meeting
10th December 2020

Mel Walls (BASE)

Martin Davies (Chair of Supported Business Steering Group)

Alistair Kerr (BASE) and Pauline Gordon (Social Enterprise Network Scotland)

Petra Kennedy (MTIB) and San Leonard (Social Firms Wales)

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Zoom ground rules



- Please mute your microphone unless you are speaking
- Please leave your camera on
- Screen sharing and private chat are disabled
- Please use the chat function to raise a questions during the presentations, which we will answer, either at the time or during Q&A
- Please respect your colleagues and allow everyone to speak
- We will have a Q&A at the end of todays presentations, please use the **raise hand** feature and wait until the facilitators invite you to speak
- There is no such thing as a silly question!

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Housekeeping



The link to the recording of this session will be circulated

This presentation will be available on the BASE Website; <https://www.base-uk.org/supported-business-policy>

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Introduction



We have updates for you from across the UK on current activity and lobbying by the Supported Business Steering Group, whose membership as of the 10th December includes:

BASE	Pluss- Seetec
BBM/RBLI	Realise Futures
Clarity	SEM CiC
Community Union	SEUK
County Print Finishers	Shaw Trust
Enham Trust	Social Firms (England, Scotland and Wales)
GIS Gloucestershire	UnLtd
Haven/Momentum	Watford Workshop
MTIB	Yateley Industries

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National Update



Over to you Martin...

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Supported Business Steering Group Prioritise



- Gaining confirmation of an extension to TESS until March 2022.
- Understanding the implications of DWP's new procurement framework.
- Understanding the developing impacts of furlough and Job Retention Scheme on Supported Businesses, promoting a manageable transition out of furlough for SBs and their employees.
- Taking forward operational issues as they arise, such as wet signature issues.

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Continued...



- Being ready to re-engage on the Proof of Concept work (PoC) for the successor funding model as soon as DWP are in a position to take this forward, including the Progression Model; and analysis and scrutiny of PoC assessment results to date.
- Operating TESS within current climate – new referrals, assessment processes, ensuring consistency.
- Retaining regular engagement and communications with DWP and SBs.

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Continued...



- New Entrants for Proof of Concept and update
- Promotional activity and information from you for the Minister
- Finances of the Steering Group and funding for the future

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News from Scotland



Outputs from National Engagement – BASE Network

- SBSG Funding request to Scottish Government
- Supported Business Advisory Group Chaired By Minister Hepburn
Established in 2012, First Minister £10.2m spend. 2018-19
£24.4m. Figure does not include Supply Chain Spend. Heads of
Public Procurement
- NHS National Procurement Launched a new Supported Business
National Framework (£5M)
- Scotland Excel (32 LA's) Scotland wide Construction
Framework which includes a Supported Business Framework
- Scottish Prison Service Procurement Re New Build Prisons
Timetable (Morrison's Construction winning Tender, Developing
a complete end to end supply chain purely made up of Supported
Business)

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Continued...



- **Currently Central Government** have 4 Supported Business Framework, Launched 2012, extended every 2 years (Sustainable Procurement Duty) End Dec 2020, Dec 2021 DPS?
- **Measuring Social Impact in Public Procurement Policy Note** Scotland's economic. There is a strong focus on enabling recovery through procurement, recognising the importance of achieving jobs and training for priority groups; Fair Work and supporting our small and medium sized enterprises, third sector organisations, supported businesses and early stage companies.
- **Presented at Scotland's** Employability Sustainable Procurement creation Employment for Disabled or Disadvantaged People across Scotland
- **Presented at NHS annual National Procurement Conference**, As Above
- **Invited to join Scottish Government** – DWP ATW Forum
- **Invited to participate** in Scottish Governments Review of Supported Employment, 1st Quarter 2021

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Pauline, over to you...

Scottish Govt Support to Social Economy since COVID:

- £350M investment, including
 - 25M Third Sector Resilience Fund (grants & interest-free loans)
 - 50M TS Wellbeing Fund
 - 25M Communities Recovery Fund
 - Free wrap around Business Support (Just Enterprise)
 - Food Insecurity Fund
 - Free school meals for children over Summer hols

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Strong political commitment to Social Enterprise & SB

- **10 year SE Strategy (2016-26)**
 - Stimulating Social Enterprise
 - Developing Stronger Organisations
 - Realising market Opportunity
 - Delivered via 3 year Action Plans
- raise the visibility of Supported Businesses to public sector buyers, promote the use of reserved contracts, and help develop the commercial potential of Supported Businesses.
- SBAG with Ministerial support
- Sustainable Procurement Duty
- SB Framework & blended approach to increasing PP spend with SBs

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What's Occurring in Wales



**MTIB have volunteered to
share their recent
experiences with you and
also talk about what their
current action plan looks like**

Over to you Petra...

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MTIB's update and action plan

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MTIB
Since 1923

To date:-

- From March 2020, 70% of staff were furloughed
- Site has reopened with most staff back in work, utilising the flexible furlough scheme where needed and home working where appropriate
- CVJRS, Funding Applications – part successful and has enabled MTIB to maintain and develop customer base
- Remained in close contact and communication with Trade Customers and Commissioners
- Adapting delivery as required

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Continued...

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MTIB
Since 1923

- Skeleton staff chosen and expanded as the need increased
- Onsite Covid-19 Risk Assessments, procedures and processes with staff training before returning
- Facilitation of homeworking – setting up ICT
- Regular support and clear communication updates to employees – ongoing and vital
- Monitoring of debtors and cash flow

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Continued...

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December 2020 to April 2021

- Work with customers to establish future business level requirements
- Liaise with funders/sponsors re activity expectations, funding and new delivery methods e.g. online referrals, assessments, training and support sessions
- Establish future staff requirement and match CVJRS for part time furlough
- Assess Bad Debt liability, chase debtors in attempt to reduce

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- Identify potential loss by the end of the financial year – 31/3/2021
- Mitigate losses – business development, products, contracts and markets, potential new opportunities from Covid-19
- Plan for phased return of remaining staff, consideration of those shielding, new ways of working and work patterns

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Continued...

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Other Welsh SB's report similar experience – many are part of the Local Authority and have remained open in limited capacity with those staff who were not shielding and are now moving towards full return.

TESG is reported as essential to maintain staff during this difficult time.

San, anything to add from a Social Firm / Social Enterprise?

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Social Firms Wales

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Welsh Government response to Covid-19

1. Additional support schemes from Welsh Government specifically for Welsh businesses in addition to the UK Government schemes
2. Economic Resilience Fund
3. Third Sector Resilience Fund

Funding bodies in Wales came together to support organisations during the Pandemic

1. Community Foundation for Wales
2. Big Lottery (Wales)

Empowerment
Employment
Enterprise

socialfirmswales
enterprise, employment, empowerment

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Social Enterprise Stakeholder Group strategic partners







1. Social Enterprise Vision & Action Plan
2. Secretariat support
3. 9 Outcomes, each with appropriate lead
4. Manifesto preparations for Welsh Elections May 2021

Empowerment
Employment
Enterprise



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Social Firms – working through the pandemic & future prospects?

1. New market opportunities
2. New ways of working, allowing return to work
3. Support focus
4. Positive outcomes, & the future following a difficult lockdown period






Empowerment
Employment
Enterprise



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Over to you, our audience



Q&A

What feedback do you have for us?

*We want you to influence our strategy on
how best to help Supported Businesses
survive and flourish*

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What next?



**The Supported Business Steering
Group have many challenges and
we always need your help...**

**Do you have capacity to volunteer
your time and expertise?**

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The Supported Business Steering Group are meeting with senior officials from DWP in the New Year and we will be pleased to share your feedback from this Meeting.

If you have any further comments, recommendations or feedback, please email martindaviesmld@gmail.com

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BASE Website



We have a wide range of resources available on our BASE Website:

<https://www.base-uk.org/>

Regarding COVID-19, resources include:-

Template Work Place Policy

Template Risk Assessment

<http://www.base-uk.org/covid19>

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