

POLICY INSIGHT

01

Economy

Find out how the social enterprise movement is facing the changing economic climate, and how the Coalition is seeking to address the issues being faced.

Environment

The environment is high on the political agenda. The Coalition is influencing a new strategy for the third sector through a new strategic partnership.

Right to request

The Coalition has been working with the Department of Health to develop guidance for PCT staff wanting to take advantage of the 'right to request'.

THIS ISSUE IN BRIEF...

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Publications

- Right to Request publication
- Proposals for the reform of services for 14-16 year olds
- Analysis of market models in the NHS from the think tank Compass

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- Workforce issues in contracting with local authorities
- Independent process for a quality and outcomes framework in the NHS

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- Reducing reoffending in London
- Debate on the future of care and support

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- All Party Parliamentary Group meeting
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- Policy Forum at the Coalition AGM
- Small Business Forum

Profiles

- Kevin Brennan, Minister for the Third Sector
- Nick Hurd, Shadow Minister for the Third Sector

The Economy

The current economic upheaval has dominated headlines over the last few weeks.

At the Coalition we've been busy telling policy makers that social enterprises provide the jobs, skills and services that are needed to hold the economy and communities together in times of crisis.

In making the case to support social enterprises to policy makers, we've briefed ministers and MPs for an adjournment debate on social enterprise in the economic crisis in the Commons, briefed members who have met with the Prime Minister and regional ministers, and made our point at the Small Business Forum.

Social enterprise lenders are also better than high street lenders at providing liquidity where it is most needed. In particular, Community Development Finance Institutions (CDFIs) and Credit Unions are among the few who have increased their lending to those who need finance the most.

The Government could most effectively provide liquidity where it is most needed by channelling capital through such social enterprise lenders. This could be done by providing capital directly or

indirectly by making the high street lenders work more closely with social lenders in return for their bail out.

To make sure we know exactly what's affecting your social enterprise, we've also been conducting an online survey, which over 300 social enterprises responded to.

Initial analysis suggests that many of the problems being faced are not new, with the most common problem being late payments from public bodies (34.2%). Other problems include grants being denied, an inability to access finance to develop or invest, falling demand from general public consumers, and lost contracts for public services.

Despite the problems reported, our online survey also showed that more social enterprises saw the upheaval as presenting an opportunity rather than a threat (35.6% to 22.0%). Slightly more social enterprises had experienced increases (37.2%) than decreases (34.3%) in the amount of trading activity and a clear majority (70%) expected the social or environmental need they addressed to increase, with 41.4% believing that it would increase a lot.

A recent YouGov poll commissioned by the Social Enterprise Coalition also reveals that an overwhelming majority of people (71%) believe that social and environmental values of business are equally or more important now than before the onset of the credit crunch. Encouragingly, when asked what we need more of in order to ensure a sustainable economy for the future, 42% of respondents chose social enterprises, ahead of government institutions, charities funded by donations, and traditional business¹.

The Pre-Budget Report of the 24th of November stated that "The current economic challenges also offer opportunities for new and sustainable business models. This is a time when social enterprises, with their focus on the creation of social and environmental, as well as financial value, may come into their own, as they prove increasingly attractive to consumers, investors, and potential entrepreneurs. Support for social enterprise across Government has never been greater (championed by the Office of the Third Sector), aimed at creating an environment in the UK for social enterprises to thrive."

Government and others will need to support the movement with the resources to realise these opportunities. It will be important that, in making £5bn of savings in the public sector mentioned elsewhere in the PBR, social enterprises delivering public services are not disadvantaged in the commissioning process by practices such as aggregating and top slicing more contracts.

It is important that we work both on ways to support social enterprises of all varieties through the challenges they are experiencing and ways for the movement to make the most of an opportunity to change the way business is done for good. To continue to improve our understanding and the case we make to policy makers we will continue to talk to members and other experts. We will keep you up to date on our progress and meet or speak with many of you.

More detailed results from the survey will be on the research page of our website soon.

1. Figures are from YouGov Plc. The total sample size was 1986 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 3rd - 5th November 2008. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).

The Environment

On Monday the 3rd of November, Defra (the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) officially launched its new [third sector strategy](#).

The strategy includes the new Defra Social Enterprise Strategic Partnership. This partnership formalises the Defra Social Enterprise Forum (composed of the Coalition, Co-ops UK, the DTA, the Plunkett Foundation and RISE) which has been involved in [influencing the strategy](#), other Defra policy and developing our relationship with Defra over the past year.

The strategy also includes a new [Greener Living Fund](#) and a Defra Third Sector Advisory Board to succeed the Compact Group. It will [need members](#) with an understanding of the distinctive needs and characteristics of social enterprises, not only the Compact.

The Coalition and other members of the Defra Social Enterprise Strategic Partnership attended the launch and met with Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for Defra, Huw Irranca-Davies MP, Minister for the Natural and Marine Environment, Wildlife and Rural Affairs and Defra's Third Sector Minister. We also talked with Joan Ruddock MP, Department for Energy and Climate Change and Kevin Brennan MP, Minister for the Third Sector, Cabinet Office.

Right to request

Social Enterprise: Making a Difference, a guide to the 'right to request' has been developed by the Department of Health Social Enterprise Unit, in partnership with the Social Enterprise Coalition.

It aims to support PCT staff who are thinking of taking up the 'right to request' and setting up a social enterprise to deliver healthcare services to NHS patients. It also answers some of the questions PCT staff may have about setting up a social enterprise, setting out some of the benefits but also the risks and challenges, and provides information on the process involved.

PUBLICATIONS

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In this section we list the publications that have been released by think tanks and government departments that may be interesting to members of the social enterprise movement.

Social Enterprise: Making a Difference, a guide to the 'right to request'

This guide aims to support NHS staff who are thinking of taking up the 'right to request'. It answers some of the questions NHS staff may have about setting up a social enterprise, setting out some of the benefits, but also the risks and challenges and provides information on the process involved.

'Delivering 14-19 Reform: Next Steps', Department for Children, Schools and Families, October 08

This publication updates changes introduced since 1995's 'Implementation Plan', to ensure young people have the right support and learning opportunities until they are 18 years old. While not mentioning social enterprises specifically, it often refers to third sector providers and partnerships operating at local and regional levels.

'Weighing In – Dealing with the Challenge of Obesity', Policy Exchange, November 08

This paper presents research into the effectiveness

of ten interventions tackling obesity. The paper uses numerous case studies using innovative designs to showcase effective interventions and support its recommendations. One such case study is 'MEND', a social enterprise that offers intervention to 2-13 year olds outside a clinical setting, reducing costs and up-skilling community care workers.

'Machines, Markets and Morals: the New Politics of a Democratic NHS', Compass

This publication makes the case against the bureaucratic and market state, and for a democratic state. It raises social enterprises for their role in delivering primary care. In particular, it emphasises the need to develop models where service provisions are co-owned by staff and patients rather than being profit-driven multinationals, while at the same time not losing employment standards or leading to competition in which commercial considerations override social objectives.

'Visions for Social Housing: International Perspectives' – The Smith Institute – Nov 08

This paper makes passing reference to the use of social enterprises and the need of housing associations to work with social enterprises among other partners.

COALITION CONSULTATIONS

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In this section we provide details on consultation responses the Coalition will be submitting. If you are interested in any of these consultations please contact the relevant policy contact to feed into our response.

Department for Communities and Local Government Community Land Trusts: A consultation

This consultation sets out Government policies on the regulation of, financial support for, and access to, social rented and affordable housing provided with public subsidies. The Department is seeking responses on how policies relating to regulation, financial support and access to social rented housing relate to the concept of Community Land Trusts. Submissions by 17th December 2008. If you would like to feed into the response please contact Ewan Kennedy at ewan.kennedy@socialenterprise.org.uk

Department for Communities and Local Government Best Value and Procurement: Workforce Matters in Best Value Authority Contracting: Statutory Guidance – Draft for Consultation

This is a consultation on proposed statutory guidance setting out how staff working on Best Value contracts are treated, namely Handling of Workforce Matters

in Contracting and the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Local Authority Service Contracts, commonly known as the “Two Tier Code”. It is applicable to all Best Value authorities in England. Submissions by 5th January 2009. If you would like to feed into the response please contact Ceri Jones at ceri.jones@socialenterprise.org.uk

Department of Health Developing the Quality and Outcomes Framework: Proposals for a new, independent process

This consultation presents proposals for how a new Quality and Outcomes Framework should operate. Submissions by 19th February 2009. If you would like to feed into the response please contact Ceri Jones at ceri.jones@socialenterprise.org.uk

OTHER CONSULTATIONS

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In this section we identify any consultations which your organisation or your members might be interested in responding to.

Department for Communities and Local Government Draft Planning Policy Statement: Eco-Towns - Consultation

This is looking for responses to a definition of eco-towns, what they should achieve, and how they are related to the planning system. Submissions by 19th February 2009.

Department for Communities and Local Government Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees - A consultation

This presents proposals for revising the code of conduct for local authority members and employees. Submissions by 24th December 2008.

Department for Communities and Local Government Delivering Digital Inclusion: An action plan for consultation

This identifies a correlation between digital exclusion and social exclusion, and seeks responses on an action plan for delivery of digital opportunities across government, third and private sectors, for individuals and communities. Submissions by 19th January 2009.

Department for Communities and Local Government Standing for Office: Time-Off Entitlements – A consultation

This consultation seeks views on extending the right to time off in civic roles, and non-regulatory ways to increase people taking on roles in third sector organisations. Submissions by 19th Dec 2008.

Department of Health Safeguarding Adults: A consultation on the Review of the ‘No Secrets’ Guidance

This consultation seeks responses on whether there is a need to review the ‘No Secrets’ guidance for safeguarding adults in light of personalisation in social care. Submissions by 31st January 2009.

Department of Health Chemotherapy Services in England – ensuring quality and safety; a report from the national Chemotherapy Advisory Group Draft for consultation

This sets out a framework for planning or monitoring services and actions to be taken by commissioners to ensure high quality care. Submissions by 4th February 2009.

Department of Health End of Life Care Strategy – Quality Markers Consultation

This consultation seeks responses on a national approach to raise the quality of end of life care. It is aimed at commissioners and end of life care services. Submissions by 6th February 2009.

Ministry of Justice Reducing Re-Offending in London

This presents a set of priorities for delivering prison and probation services in London, and the work of agencies to reduce re-offending. Any responses are to inform the 2009-2011 Action Plan. Submissions by 30th January 2009.

Department for Work and Pensions Launch of the Public Debate on Future of Care and Support

This debate is looking for responses from organisations involved in delivering care and support about the future of these services.

EVENTS

07

This section will give a summary of events the Coalition has been involved in since the previous edition and tell you about upcoming events that may interest you.

What we have been up to...

Delivering Change: Social Enterprise Health and Social Care Conference - 4th November 2008

The Coalition held its conference looking at the new opportunities presented by the 'right to request' and the Darzi Review. This event brought together social enterprises, NHS practitioners, commissioners and policy makers to examine the implications of the new conditions and what is needed to ensure the best services are created. Speakers included Dame Christine Beesley and Lord Victor Adebawale, who emphasised the need to collaborate and form partnerships in winning contracts and delivering services.

The workshops were lively demonstrations of social enterprises and what the movement can bring to the NHS. The report on the conference and the presentations are available through the health and social care section of our webpage www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/health-and-social-care.html.

CIC Forum – 24th November 2008

The Coalition held its second CIC Forum at the Concept Conference Centre in Birmingham. It was attended by around 20 CICs and received presentations from Sara Burgess the CIC regulator and Salford Health Matters CIC. There followed a lively discussion and workshops on the issues faced by CICs including finance, brand awareness and governance. A report is available at <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/cic-forum.html>

If you are interested in being involved in future CIC forums please contact Ewan Kennedy on ewan.kennedy@socialenterprise.org.uk

All Party Parliamentary Group – Seminar 19th November 2008

The All Party Group on Social Enterprise held a seminar on the 19th November in parliament on building the evidence base for social enterprise.

Attended by academics, social enterprise leaders and parliamentarians, the event focused on evidencing the impact of social enterprises working in the health and care sector, with Brian Strevens from SCA Group and Emma Wilson from Local Care Direct speaking about the work of their organisations.

A parliamentary perspective on the topic was given by Norman Lamb MP, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Health, and Phil Hope MP, Minister of State for Care Services, who noted that £450000 was available for supporting 6 social enterprise projects. Fergus Lyons of Middlesex University also spoke about the research issues facing the social enterprise sector.

The Coalition, which runs the secretariat for the APPG, would like to thank Hill Holt Wood, Sporta, HCT, SCA Group, and Local Care Direct for their support for the APPG. We would also like to thank the Economic and Social Research Council for sponsoring this event.

Policy Forum at the Coalition Annual General Meeting – 2nd December 2008

The Coalition held its annual general meeting on Tuesday 2nd December 2008 and took the opportunity to garner the views of the sector at a policy forum. The session included regional networks, umbrella bodies and social enterprises who discussed the needs of social enterprises during the coming recession, and how government can support the sector in this new economic climate. There was lively debate which raised a host of issues including the purpose and use

of profits in social enterprises, the need for the social enterprise to market themselves and how business support and investment can be delivered to the sector.

The contributions made at this event highlighted some of the most important issues facing social enterprises and will inform the Coalition's work with government and the wider sector.

What we are going to be up to...

Right to Request Workshops

Following on from the launch of the "Social Enterprise - Making a Difference: a guide to the right to request", the Social Enterprise Coalition is organising a series of workshops on behalf of the Department of Health, to help people find out more.

Workshops will take place on the following dates:

- London – 13th January 2009
- Birmingham – 15th January 2009
- Leeds – 21st January 2009

To register your interest for the workshops please see www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/right-to-request-workshops.html

PROFILES

09

Kevin Brennan

The new Minister for the Third Sector, Kevin Brennan was tipped for success soon after entering parliament in 2001.

He has since been steadily promoted, holding various posts including assistant government whip and junior minister in the Department for Children, Schools and Families, before moving to the OTS.

Educated at Pembroke College, Oxford where he read philosophy, politics and economics, and succeeded William Hague as president of the Oxford Union, Kevin taught business studies and economics in Cardiff before pursuing a career in politics.

Kevin has already visited a number of social enterprises including HCT, Greenwich Leisure Limited, Southbank Mosaic and Livity, as well as attending the Enterprising Solutions Awards. He also showed support for social enterprise in a parliamentary debate on the 29th October on social enterprise.

A keen musician, Kevin is a founder member of the cross-party parliamentary rock band MP4, which plays at charity events.

Nick Hurd

Nick Hurd, the new Conservative Shadow Minister for the Third Sector, is the son of former Foreign Secretary Lord Hurd and the fourth generation of his family to enter parliament.

First elected in 2005, Nick has served on the joint committee on the Draft Climate Change Bill (2007) and as an opposition whip, as well as being an officer for a variety of All Party Groups including the Environment Group and the Small Business Group.

Educated at Eton and Exeter College, Oxford where he read classics, Nick has worked in financial services and communications, and is a director of the telecommunications provider Band-X Ltd.

Nick has shown a great deal of interest in social enterprise, stating his support at the parliamentary debate on the 29th October. He has also sought engagement with the movement, speaking at a recent Social Enterprise London conference.

Nick is a keen writer and submits frequent articles for his local papers.

