

An Enterprising Future

10th November 2011, [Platform](#), London.



Welcome to Platform! We arrived bright and early for our conference, An Enterprising Future, and were immediately enthralled by the space: quirky feel, professional staff, and grand building. What a great example of a budding, youth-orientated social enterprise! The plenary got underway with David Tyler from [Community Matters](#) chairing the session, and the following speakers: Debbie Stevens, from [Fun 4 Kidz](#), June O'Sullivan, from [London Early Years Foundation](#), and Peter Holbrook, CEO of [Social Enterprise UK](#), who each shared some pertinent insights into the work of their social enterprises in the children and young people service industry.

The plenary session definitely left everyone buzzing! Delegates and workshop leaders excitedly made their way to the workshop sessions, via a pit stop to the awesome tea and coffee area, provided by [Community Diner](#). The workshops focused on learning and thinking about four broad business areas: from the basics, Business Planning, to more complex topics such as Evaluating Impact, Accessing Finance and Winning Public Sector Contracts, through the prism of a social enterprise model.

Meanwhile, the plenary room was transformed into a networking and one-to-one business consultation space. These tailored surgery sessions gave delegates a prime opportunity to discuss anything particular to their business, which may not be covered in the workshops. Conversations were lively (so much gesticulating and hand talk!) and judging by the demand for more one-to-one we received in our feedback forms, these were also very productive. The networking sessions were also a valuable opportunity for delegates to get talking about their ideas, their organisations and of course, An Enterprising Future.



Samantha, [Social Enterprise UK](#)

Here is what some of the delegates had to say:

“The one-to-one advice was very helpful.”

“Very well-paced and informed advisers.”

“Lovely venue. Brilliant example of a social enterprise!”

“Enjoyed the event and found the networking useful. All in all, it's given me much food for thought.”

Keep an eye out on our [webpage](#) for more events linking Children and Young People's service providers with the wonderful world of social enterprises or here for the [CYP network page](#). To receive events notifications straight to your inbox, [sign up to our newsletter!](#)

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