

# STATE OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



## IN YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

This paper sets out headline findings on the state of social enterprise in Yorkshire and the Humber, using government estimates and data from the State of Social Enterprise 2025 and SEUK's Social Enterprise Knowledge Centre.

<p><b>Around 6,100 of the 100,000 social enterprises</b> in the UK operate in Yorkshire and the Humber*. <b>59%</b> of these operate as Community Interest Companies.</p>	<p>Median social enterprise turnover in Yorkshire and the Humber was around <b>£117,500</b> the previous financial year.</p>	<p>Social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber employ a <b>median of 6 people</b>.</p>
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Of the social enterprises surveyed:

**37%** deliver products  
**94%** deliver services  
**22%** deliver works

The main sources of income for social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber are trading with the **public sector (24%)**, trading with the **general public (20%)**, and **non-government, local authority, and public sector grants (12%)**.

The median amount of time social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber have been trading is 8 years.

	YH	UK
<b>Up to 6 months</b>	4%	3%
<b>7 months to a year</b>	0%	2%
<b>1-3 years</b>	20%	19%
<b>4-5 years</b>	18%	17%
<b>6-10 years</b>	22%	26%
<b>11-15 years</b>	10%	14%
<b>16-20 years</b>	12%	7%
<b>More than 20 years</b>	10%	11%

## ECONOMY

The portion of social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber making a profit has decreased slightly from **55%** in **2023** to **53%** in **2025**.

**45%** developed a new product or service in the previous financial year. This is down on **2021** and **2023**, where **61%** and **59%** of social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber developed new products respectively.

	PROFIT		LOSS		BROKE EVEN	
	YH	UK	YH	UK	YH	UK
<b>2025</b>	53%	40%	12%	26%	29%	28%
<b>2023</b>	55%	48%	22%	26%	22%	22%
<b>2021</b>	54%	49%	27%	25%	19%	25%

	YH	UK
<b>2025</b>	45%	50%
<b>2023</b>	59%	53%
<b>2021</b>	61%	61%

**53%** grew their turnover from the previous financial year.  
**18%** decreased their turnover from the previous financial year.  
**61%** expect to grow their turnover in the next financial year, and **18%** expect it to decrease.

Of those who expect their turnover to grow, most plan to achieve this through developing new products and services (**80%**), partnerships with the public/private sector (**77%**), and diversifying/expanding into new markets (**70%**).

**Financial barriers** were perceived as the biggest barrier to growth (**73%**). Of these financial barriers, cash flow was viewed as the biggest barrier to growth (**67%**).



## SOCIETY

**43%** of leaders are women. This is lower than the UK figure of **57%**.

**10%** come from a minority ethnic background. This is lower than the UK figure of **17%**.

**39%** identify as disabled or neurodivergent. This is higher than the UK figure of **30%**.

**76%** have lived experience of the social issue(s) addressed by their social enterprise

**89%** are real living wage employers



Celebrating the end of the Build Your Business programme at Impact Hub Yorkshire.

The **top three impact** areas for social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber are:

- Supporting vulnerable people (**61%**)
- Mental health and wellbeing (**59%**)
- Physical health and wellbeing (**45%**)

## SUPPORT

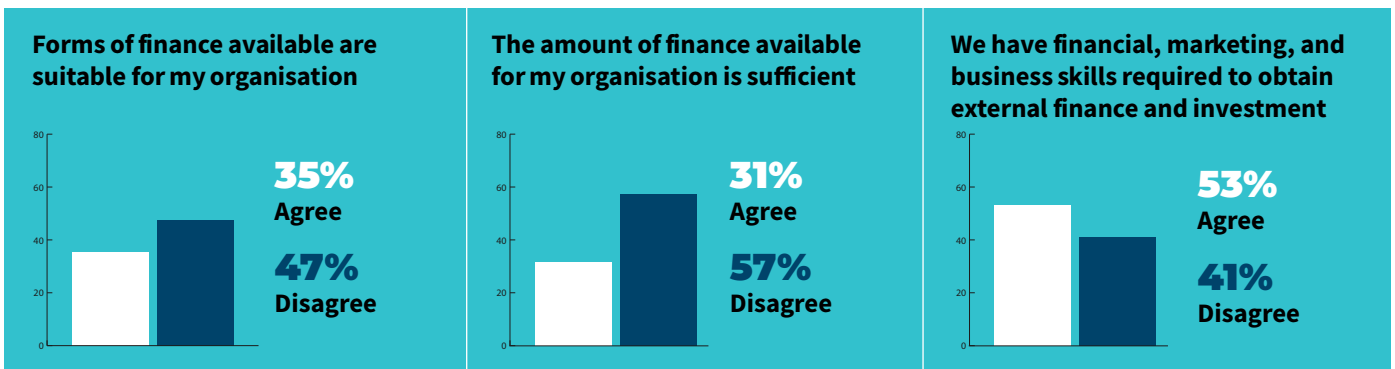
Summary of interest in external finance (not including grants) in the last 12 months.

	2025	2023	2021
Applied for external finance	27%	10%	26%
Considered applying but didn't	29%	31%	26%
Not considered applying	45%	57%	48%
Don't know/prefer not to say	0%	2%	N/A

The three most common reasons for deciding not to apply to new sources of finance in 2025 were:

	2025
Thought application would be rejected	43%
Didn't want to take on additional risk	43%
Not the right time (economic conditions)	36%

Opinions on external finance were as follows:



The four most common areas where external information/advice were sought were:



- 82%** Business growth/business plans
- 47%** Management/leadership development
- 47%** Employment law/redundancies
- 47%** Health and safety

