



From: Anne Maher [Redacted]
Sent: 05 May 2019 17:14
To: DRCD SEConsultation
Subject: National Social Enterprise Policy Submission

To whom it concerns,
It is welcome to see the National Policy being drafted regarding Social Enterprises and indeed recognise the valuable contribution they make to society.
At The Urban Co-op we are at the coal face of what it means to operate in this environment. We have seen many changes in the past few years and operate from a strong voluntary ethos.
The transition phase from voluntary to paid employment structures needs support. The role of a mentor to facilitate this transition could be useful.
Having a strong network of LOCAL support needs to be a priority with mentoring support readily available. SEs often operate on local scale and are often so busy they cannot afford time to look nationally for support.
Access to smaller grants with less bureaucracy can be helpful. The stress associated with the inconsistency of grant funding timing can be detrimental to the initiatives. We are learning as we go and often by mistakes. There is lots of inspiration to be gleaned from other organisations. A suitable mentor to guide the processes would be really helpful.
Having local SE awareness events for schools etc helps to raise awareness. Can Young Scientist groups work on measuring social impact models for research?
Emphasis on best practice and what good governance means is paramount. Local support on mentoring these areas would be a huge help as often a board are busy keeping the "lights" on and have little time for reflection.
All the best!

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Regards
Anne

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