



Walkinstown
Green Social
Enterprises

Response to National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022

May 2019

Introduction

This document is the response from Walkinstown Green Social Enterprises Clg to the 'Draft for Public Consultation' 'National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland 2019-2022' issued on Tuesday 23rd April 2019. Outlined in these pages are the amendments suggested for an effective policy from government on social enterprise development in Ireland.

Who Are Walkinstown Green Social Enterprises ?

Walkinstown Green Social Enterprises Clg (WGSE) was founded in 2012 in response to the difficulties experienced by people with intellectual disabilities in accessing appropriate work-related training and employment opportunities.

The social enterprise currently operates the Green Kitchen Café, The Mess Café and the Green Garden Centre. It also operates a community hub in Walkinstown which is used by eighteen community groups including the Dublin 12 Men's Shed and Charity Radio.

Since it opened in 2012 WGSE has provided accredited training to 120 adults with intellectual disabilities and has supported a 82 people into paid employment in the open labour market.

60% of the employees of WGSE come are people with intellectual disabilities. Funding is received from the Community Services Programme towards staffing costs.

WGSE is a "work-inclusion" social enterprise and is a prime example of collaboration and employer engagement in support of the Comprehensive Employment Strategy for People with Disabilities.

Key Issues Identified from the report

- We believe that social enterprises are first and foremost enterprises who trade on a commercial basis. They do not have 'similarities' to business they are businesses.
- Because of this we believe that social enterprise is a distinct sector not a subsidiary of the community and voluntary sector
- Because social enterprises produce a social rather than a financial dividend, seed, development capital and affordable loans should be accessible.
- The staff costs in running a social enterprise are often higher than in a comparable for profit enterprise. This is usually because the social enterprise usually has a training element to

their business model which requires increased levels of staffing. In this regard we are advocating for a reduced rate of employers PRSI for staff employed by a social enterprise

- Social Value Clauses/Community Benefit Clauses should be included in all public sector tenders