

Submission in relation to section 5. Policy Objective Two - Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise

Business supports for social enterprise p.18

A Mentor Programme for Social Enterprises

This Mentor Programme could match the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with Social Enterprises who need practical and strategic one to one advice and guidance. The mentor would contribute independent, informed observation and advice to aid decision making. The Programme could be based on the existing Programmes run by Enterprise Ireland and the Local Enterprise Offices. However it should be a stand alone Programme given the different needs of Social Enterprise to private enterprise e.g. in the area of governance.

Access to Finance and Funding p.20

Financial Support for Key Management

Every business, private or social, has a key individual driving it. Many Social Enterprises are developed from within existing not-for-profit companies. This sometimes creates the need for an additional person at management level where none of the organisation's existing staff have the time, or expertise, to drive the business. 'Stand alone' financial support for a key management person is not currently available as this role where funded currently involves managing scheme staff which can in itself absorb management time to the exclusion of other key tasks. This initiative would provide funding towards the cost of recruiting a Key Manager, or Business Development Executive, with skills that are critical to the future growth of the business.

This initiative could be based on the Enterprise Ireland Key Manager Support grant. See the link below:

<https://www.enterprise-ireland.com/en/Management/Leadership-and-Management-Development/Key-Manager.shortcut.html>