

Cultural Social Enterprise Network
Feedback to Public Consultation by Cultural Commission
From 2nd Meeting Thursday, 7th March 2005
West Lothian Youth Theatre, Livingston

Present: Michael Richardson, Host (West Lothian Theatre Group); Liz Gardiner (Fablevision); Susan & Gary (Fly Right Dance Company); Mark Gilroy (spARTacus); Mark Kelly & T Meldrum (Subliminal Directions); Jacqueline Whymark (SALP); Thursa Sanderson (Drake Music Project Scotland)

In Attendance Zhivko Gulaboff (Social Enterprise Academy); Stuart Thomas (Cultural Commission); Colin Campbell (Senscot)

In response to the Public Consultation by the Cultural Commission those present at the 2nd meeting of the Cultural Social Enterprise Network meeting put forward the following response.

That the following areas should be looked at with regards to strategic support for the Cultural Social Enterprise sector.

- Greater understanding of the value of independent cultural social enterprises
- Local Authorities (LA's) should not be the priority for delivery of cultural activities
- Incentives for LA's to support local cultural enterprise/services
- Parity of approach across LA's Support for the sector to support itself nationally, regionally and locally
- Support for the sharing of best practice across the sector
- A similar approach to the funding opportunities provided by Scotland UnLtd for individuals to set up cultural social enterprises (not risk averse)
- Business support for cultural social enterprises
- Clear role of Scottish Enterprise within this sector
- Funding (e.g. through national CSEN) to pull together ideas cultural social enterprise, and the value of this kind of approach, clarifying the difference between an independently funded social enterprise and a wholly grant funded organisation (how social enterprise can help free the innovative spirit)
- Support for specialist cultural schools
- For the cultural sector to develop a business relationship with the educational sector
- Bringing in best practice from other countries

In order to achieve these outcomes the Network highlighted a number of areas which would need to be worked on to remove barriers and blockages.

- Effective reporting on what really counts, as opposed to what counts for the funders
- Schools don't appear willing to discuss innovative ideas with cultural social enterprise (e.g. enterprise learning through putting on an arts show) with notable exceptions including Room 13
- Need for a brokerage between the support agencies, the funders and the sector
- Understanding of other funding streams that will fit with the sector
- Cultural Sector is not named in the Community Planning Partnerships