Micro enterprise: Harnessing Social Capital for Social Purpose

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Community Catalysts

communitycatalysts
unlocking potential effecting change

SharedLivesPlus
THE UK NETWORK FOR SMALL COMMUNITY SERVICES

What is Community Catalysts?

- A social enterprise and Community Interest Company launched in 2010 by the charity Shared Lives Plus
- Works to harness the talents of people and communities to provide high quality small scale and local support services.
- Aims to make sure that people wherever they live have real choice of great local social care and health services

Micro providers

- Are local people providing support and services to other local people
- Work on a very small scale (5 or fewer workers – paid or unpaid)
- Are independent of any larger organisation
- Can be run by anyone including people who use services, their families, community members, ex care workers

What types of services do they provide?

People buy support and services to help them to live their lives - many micro enterprises deliver services that fall outside health and social care such as:

- Supported tenancies
- Well being and health
- Leisure and arts
- Holidays and short breaks
- Friendship or good neighbour
- Drop in centres and lunch clubs
- Advice and representation
- Transport

How do the providers work?

- A range of business models: sole trader, partnership, small business, social enterprise, charity or voluntary organisation
- Deliver on a continuum from fully voluntary at one end to fully commercial at the other.
- May employ a small number of staff. Most directly deliver support themselves.
- Full time or occasional - fitting in with other employment, personal, caring responsibilities or study.
- Established or new and emerging
- May not fit within the regulatory framework

What do micro providers offer people who need support and services?

- Real choice of services that help people to live their lives and meet health and support needs
- Personal and tailored
- Co-produced
- Flexible and responsive to change
- Help people to link to their community and build social capital
- Help people to make their money go further
- Route into work and volunteering

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