

PentaHact Workshop
Charities Starting Social Firms

9.30am – 1.30pm 22nd February Britannia House North Finchley

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Workshop aims:

1. Explore the concept and the 'warts and all' reality of Social Firms
2. Explore whether Social Firms are in fact a good way of fulfilling PentaHact's vision and aims
3. Explore the implications of Social Firm development for the whole organisation
4. Provide the underpinning knowledge to shape PentaHact's approach to Social Firm development

9.30am Introductions etc.

9.45am Understanding Social Firms

- ∞ Definitions and examples
- ∞ The policy and funding environment
- ∞ Key business viability issues
- ∞ 'The Extra Elements' - *download background material on this from <http://www.socialfirms.co.uk/index.php/Section108.html>*

10.15am A Charity preparing to set up a Social Firm

- ∞ Understanding how PentaHact's aims and priorities affect how the Social Firm is established - *what is PentaHact trying to achieve?*
- ∞ Assessing organisational capacity, including looking at the key differences between charities and enterprises in terms of skills required, management practices, operational and financial systems and practice, market orientation, etc
- ∞ Risk and risk management

11am Charity law and other regulatory constraints

- ∞ Overview of the legal/financial environment for charities trading
- ∞ Asset and staff transfers
- ∞ Clarifying the implications of work simulation, work training and enterprise, especially in relation to welfare benefits and minimum wage issues

11.30am Subsidiary/linked trading company structures

- ∞ Key legal/financial structure points for Social Firms
- ∞ Community Interest Companies and other new developments
- ∞ Managing the relationship between a Charity and a subsidiary/linked Social Firm
- ∞ Some examples of subsidiary/linked trading company structures

12.15pm Social Firm development processes

- ∞ Starting inside or out – making a silk purse out of a sow's ear
- ∞ Planning start-up or externalisation

12.45pm Lunch and finish