



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Assembly Members

03 December 2014

Dear Assembly Member

During my Oral Statement on the Welsh Co-operative and Mutuals Commission's Recommendations a query was raised about the range of specialist business support available.

The Wales Co-operative Centre provides specialist business support to co-operatives, mutuals social enterprises, community groups and voluntary organisations. It can also assist a range of potential social enterprise business structures, including sole traders, partnerships and charitable organisations who want to trade under their primary purpose or set up a trading arm. Support ranges from advice on legal structures and financial planning to access to training, such as specific training for Board members.

The Centre's Business Succession and Consortia team also offer support to businesses on forming consortia partnerships, including advice on structuring a consortium, such as suitable business models, organisational and legal structures, business and financial planning. They can also advise on company registration, employment and HR issues, governance and training.

Peer-to-peer mentoring support is also available. This is run as a bespoke service where mentors are found to meet client's needs. Mentors can be found from a range of social enterprise backgrounds and from other business models such as sole traders and partnerships, if required.

In addition, our Business Wales service provides a single point of access to information, advice and support on the full suite of general and specialist business support available to all businesses including social enterprises.

Edwina Hart