



# Programme Information

## Applicants

### Do you have a vision for a better world?

The SEEK Project supports people who are not in work to set up new social enterprises and to gain the skills to move into employment.

**Social Enterprises** are businesses that trade to tackle social problems, strengthen communities or improve the environment. They aim to generate most of their income through selling goods and services, reinvesting the majority of their profits to further their social mission.

#### About the programme

The SEEK project is a 6-month intensive social enterprise StartUp Programme which includes:

- 1-week training course providing expert knowledge and skills to help you get started
- An individual learning journey to plan your path to setting up
- A business mentor who will provide you with one to one support throughout the programme
- Monthly workshops from experts
- A StartUp fund of £500
- 4 days of work shadowing of a social enterprise CEO or Manager
- Peer to peer action learning sets once a month
- Support to engage in local business network events

At the end of the 6 months you will receive a package of on-going support including one to ones, access to the action learning sets and social enterprise networks.

#### What will I get from the programme?

By the end of the programme you will have:

- Created a business plan
- Completed your learning journey and have a plan for your next steps including how to access other business support programmes and finance
- Gained knowledge and skills on starting a business from a range of experts
- Been introduced to the community of social entrepreneurs in your area, built relationships with others on the same journey and established contacts with a variety of organisations and people who can help you take your social enterprise to the next stage
- Accessed your £500 fund towards your startup costs
- Had the opportunity to set up your social enterprise



## What are the costs?

If you are eligible the programme is fully funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund under the Building Better Opportunities Programme. You can also access funds to cover your travel and child/adult care while participating in the programme activities.

## Where does the programme take place?

The programme will take place simultaneously in Brighton, Chichester and Croydon. Some activities will bring the group together and be held in Brighton.

## How do I apply?

### Step 1: Check you are eligible for the programme

To be eligible you must:

- Not be in paid work (not necessarily receiving benefits)
- Legally have the right to live and work in the UK
- Be aged 19 or over (or 15-18 if Not in Employment Education or Training)
- Have a social or environmental issue you are passionate about improving through business
- Be available and ready to participate in all programme activities over six months

### Step 2: Tell us about themselves and their idea

Contact us to receive the stage 1 application form or download it from our website, complete it and return it to us. Once submitted, we will check you are eligible and arrange a meeting.

**Applications for 2018 open in November 2017**

### Step 3: Develop their skills and idea

We can help you to develop your idea, build your confidence, get inspired and gain relevant skills before your pitch. This support will take place over 6 days in March 2018.

### Step 4: Pitch your idea

Stage 2 of the application is a pitch where you will share your social enterprise idea with a small panel.

15 social entrepreneurs will then be selected from across the Coast to Capital region to start the programme each year. Those selected for the 2018 cohort will start the programme in May 2018.

**For more information and to apply**  
**email [socialenterprise@theplatform.org.uk](mailto:socialenterprise@theplatform.org.uk), call us on 01273 468200 or**  
**check out [www.theplatform.org.uk/seek](http://www.theplatform.org.uk/seek)**