



Oxfordshire Social Entrepreneurship Partnership



Funded by UK Government

# OSEP IMPACT REPORT

For UKSPF funded programme

# 2025/26

June 2025  
January  
2026



## PROJECT OVERVIEW



# £80,000 INVESTMENT SUPPORTING IMPACT DRIVEN ENTERPRISES TO START, GROW AND THRIVE

UKSPF-funded programme across Oxfordshire | July 2025 – January 2026

126

organisations & entrepreneurs supported

391

hours of tailored 1:1 support

11

training sessions, 90+ participants

3

active peer networks



## ENTERPRISE SUPPORT GROUNDED IN COMMUNITY NEED

- Trusted, community-based delivery
- Engaging underserved groups
- Beyond basic business advice
- **Specialist support tackling real-world challenges**

## FROM IDEAS TO VIABLE ORGANISATIONS

- ✓ 8 new company registrations
- ✓ 59 entrepreneurs became enterprise-ready
- ✓ 15 organisations improved services & products
- ✓ 64 organisations engaged in knowledge transfer

*The support helped us move forward with confidence and take clear next steps.*

## CREATING LOCAL IMPACT THROUGH



**Youth & creativity**



**Health & wellbeing**



**Employment & enterprise**



**Community spaces**



**Environment & food**



**Recovery & reintegration**

## TURNING LOCAL INVESTMENT INTO COMMUNITY IMPACT

A targeted investment delivering transformative specialist support to purpose-led organisations to grow sustainable local impact.

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# Introduction

Over the past six months, Oxford City Council, South Oxfordshire District Council and Vale of White Horse District Council have invested £80,000 through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to strengthen and grow the social economy across Oxford and its surrounding districts.

This investment has enabled the delivery of a targeted Social Enterprise Business Support Programme, designed to empower purpose-led businesses, social entrepreneurs and community organisations. Supporting 126 organisations and entrepreneurs.

The programme has been instrumental in supporting mission-driven enterprises to start, grow and sustain their impact. Support has included providing non-financial business support, delivering training and capacity-building sessions, supporting individuals from socially excluded backgrounds and helping aspiring entrepreneurs become enterprise ready.

Expanding reach into under-served communities, improving enterprise longevity through deeper and more sustained support, enhancing skills development in areas such as financial planning and impact measurement and advancing community wealth building. Central to this approach is the belief that locally rooted, purpose-led businesses play a vital role in creating inclusive economic growth, generating employment, and reinvesting value back into communities.

The programme has focused on unlocking enterprise skills within communities to ensure the districts remain healthy and vibrant places to live and work. A key priority has been reducing social isolation and improving employment opportunities in areas of deprivation by supporting residents to explore self-employment pathways, including sole trading, social enterprise and co-operative models that deliver direct community benefit. The programme has been led by OSEP and partners Cooperative Futures, Makespace, Aspire and African families in the UK.



# About OSEP



## Business Support

Helping impact driven enterprises grow and thrive



## Connections and Community

Meet Peers, collaborators and Buyers.



## Advocacy, Policy and Lobbying

Representing the sector to create a more supportive environment for impact enterprises



## Training and Resources

Workshops, networking and practical support



## Social Value Advice

Strengthen your impact and social value strategy

## Mission

An inclusive, enterprising local economy for Oxfordshire fuelled by the growth of social enterprise, social entrepreneurs, and purposeful businesses.

## Vision

To support and empower social enterprises, social entrepreneurs, and purposeful businesses making a positive impact in Oxfordshire to help realise an inclusive and enterprising local economy. Campaigning for them, championing them, creating, and promoting opportunities for them to achieve a strong and inclusive economy and society, using our powerful collaborations across all sectors.

## A Partnership Model Rooted in Trust & Place

OSEP does not deliver alone. We work through a network of specialist associates and partner organisations. Our strength is not just expertise - it is trusted relationships.

### Our Model

- Specialist expertise delivered by experienced associates.
- Partners embedded in the communities they serve.
- Long standing, trusted relationships with diverse communities.
- Place-based delivery grounded in lived experience

### Why this matters

- We reach communities others cannot.
- Support is culturally relevant and accessible.
- Trust is built through existing relationships.
- Impact is locally grounded and sustainable.

# Our partners

## COOPERATIVE FUTURES

- Supports the creation and growth of co-operatives and community-led businesses across the UK.
- Provides expert advice, training, and mentoring on governance, finance, and business planning.
- Focuses on building sustainable, democratic organisations that benefit local communities.



- Supports African and Black minority families with integration, wellbeing, and community connection.
- Promotes entrepreneurship, inclusion, education and empowerment.
- Offers advice, advocacy, and culturally appropriate services for families and young people.
- Promotes inclusion, education, and empowerment within local communities.



- A social enterprise helping people facing homelessness, disadvantage, or unemployment into work and training.
- Runs employment programmes, including recycling, logistics, and environmental services.
- Aims to build confidence, skills, and long-term independence for participants.



- Transforms empty or underused buildings into affordable workspaces for community groups, artists, and social enterprises.
- Encourages meanwhile use of vacant properties to support creativity and local initiatives.
- Helps organisations access space that would otherwise be unaffordable in Oxford.

We would also like to thank our associates, Annie Davy, Makena Lhor, Nuha Abdo, Tom Carmen, Good Food Oxfordshire for their contributions, advice and support.

# Programme Overview

The programme combined one-to-one support, intensive tailored guidance, peer networks and structured training to provide a holistic and flexible support offer. This approach ensured participants could access both personalised advice and collective learning opportunities, responding to different stages of business development and individual needs. By blending practical skills development with ongoing mentoring and peer support, the programme aimed to build confidence, strengthen enterprise readiness and foster a supportive ecosystem for sustainable business growth.

## 1-1 Support & Advice

Across the programme, a total of 391 hours of tailored support was delivered through a combination of one-to-one advice, intensive support, mentoring and follow-up activity in this 6 month period.

## Peer Networks

Three themed peer networks framed around common areas social enterprises are innovating.

- Food and catering.
- Creative industries.
- Community assets.

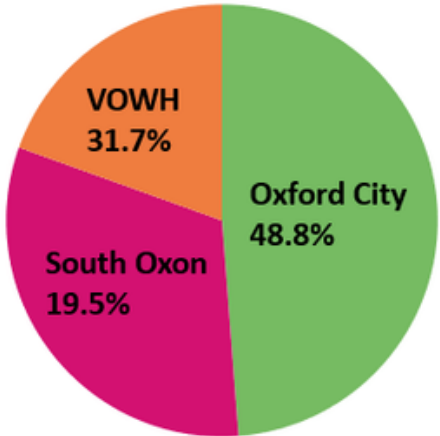
## Training

11 themed trainings on key topics including

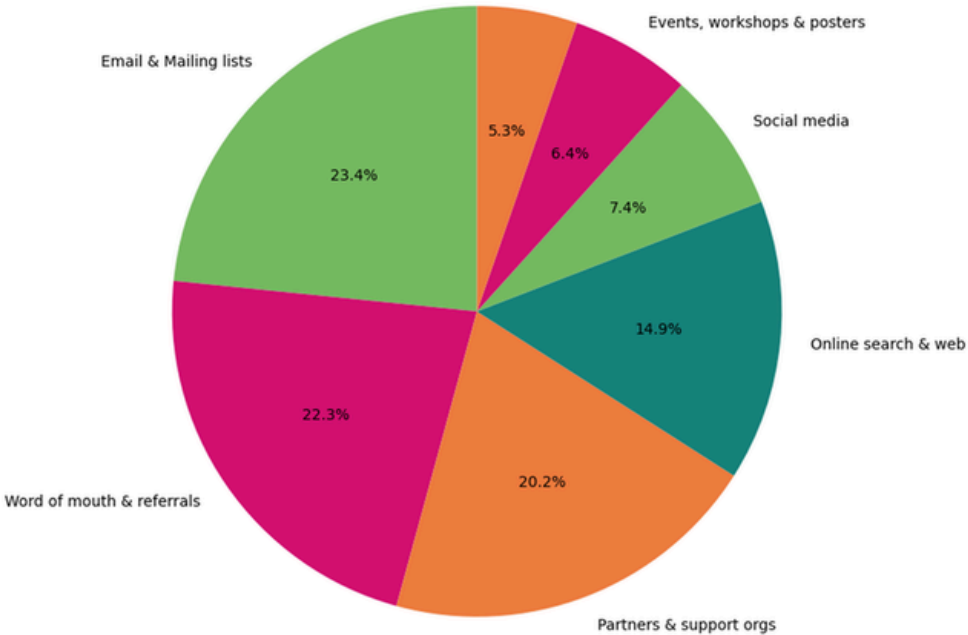
- Legal structures.
- Marketing.
- Accelerator workshops.

# Programme Reach, Engagement & Referrals

New enquiries by location



How People Found Out About the Programme  
Direct outreach / 121s



Indicating that people are not finding out about support via traditional support gateways. The majority are coming via existing community connections

**MEDIA REACH**  
JULY - JANUARY

Estimated Total Reach:  
**20,000 - 50,000**  
IMPRESSIONS

Combined Reach:  
**8,000 - 15,000**  
INDIVIDUALS

Verified Audience:  
**5,000+**  
FOLLOWERS

# 1-1 Support

The programme delivered over 390 hours of 1:1 support in six months, reflecting the complex and evolving needs of social enterprises. While some support aligned with early-stage business advice, much of the demand extended beyond this, including governance, legal structures, safeguarding, community accountability, and mixed income models.

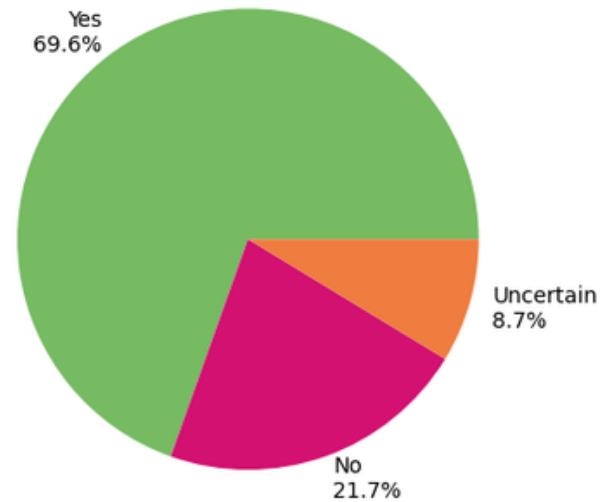
Many organisations operate within hybrid structures (e.g. CICs, co-operatives, charities) and work in regulated or community based settings, requiring specialist knowledge not typically found in mainstream business support.

As a result, support was often relational and ongoing, focusing on building confidence, clarifying roles, and solving complex challenges over time, rather than one-off interventions.

*“I was discouraged from taking any steps forward towards the goal with a view that all the ideas on the table were already provided by other organisations.”*

Highlighting that good business advice is sometimes about having honest conversations that are challenging with people.

Business support area	%
Legal structure & governance	70%
Funding and financial planning	65%
Business planning and Strategy	60%
Marketing and communications	55%
Operations and admin	45%
Premises, land and assets	35%
Impact measurement	30%
Networks, mentoring, confidence	40%



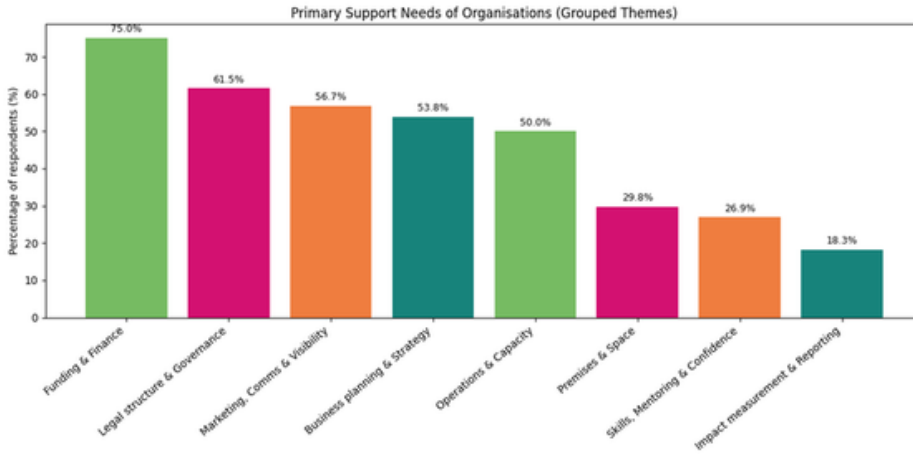
*“The development path was of major importance us so that we could position ourselves to prioritise collaboration and partnership working. I believe the support we received confirmed our approach and gave us some concrete ways of moving this forward in our planning and development.”*

*“I set up a WhatsApp Community which has since been invaluable as way to communicate with interested customers more directly. I also use social media more regularly and consistently to keep building traction”*

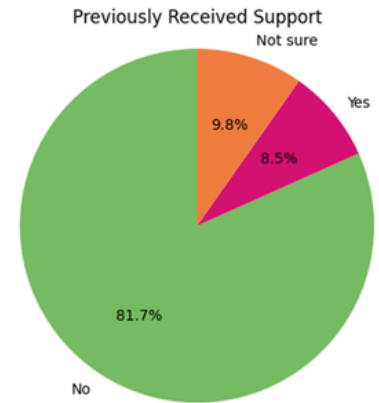
*“Left to my own thinking I would probably have built the challenge I was facing into a much bigger issue than it was, but was able to take a facilitated step back, reflect and approach it differently. At the start of my connection with OSEP I was thinking about walking away, and the support really helped me to slow down and helped to remove any sense of panic. I am feeling much more positive and calm about the future.”*

# UNDERSTANDING ENTERPRISE NEEDS & BARRIERS

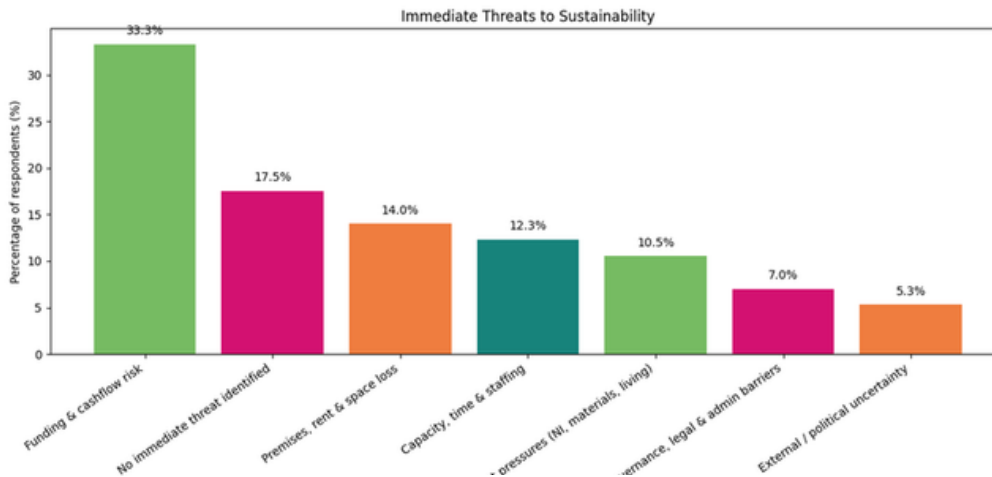
## Primary support needs



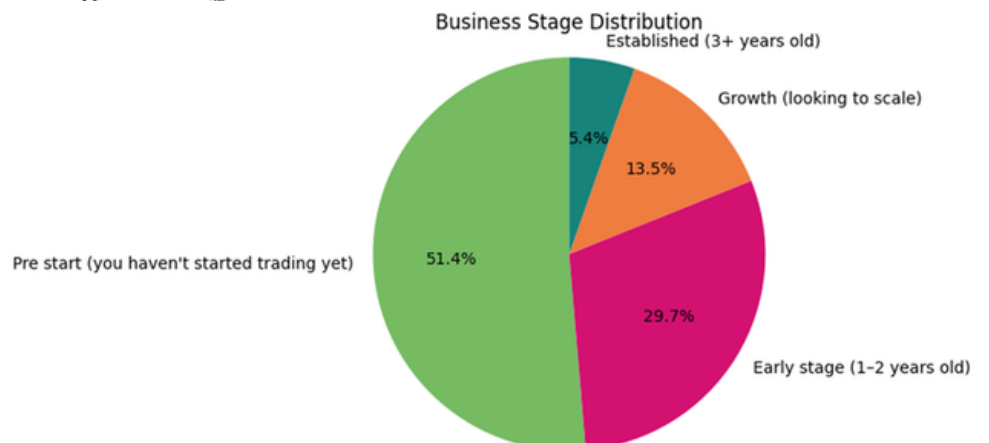
## New referrals



## Threats to sustainability



## Business stage

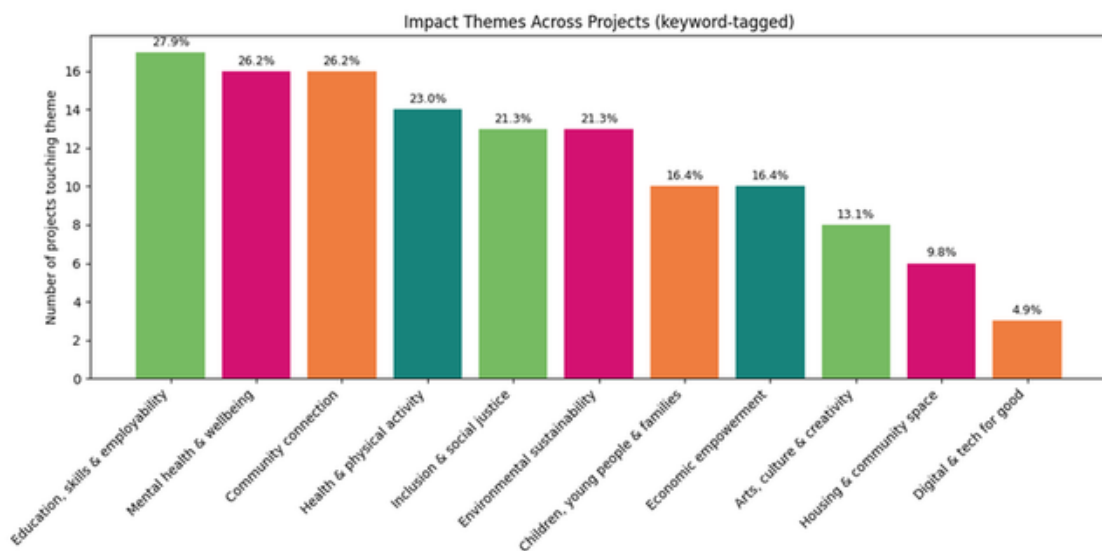
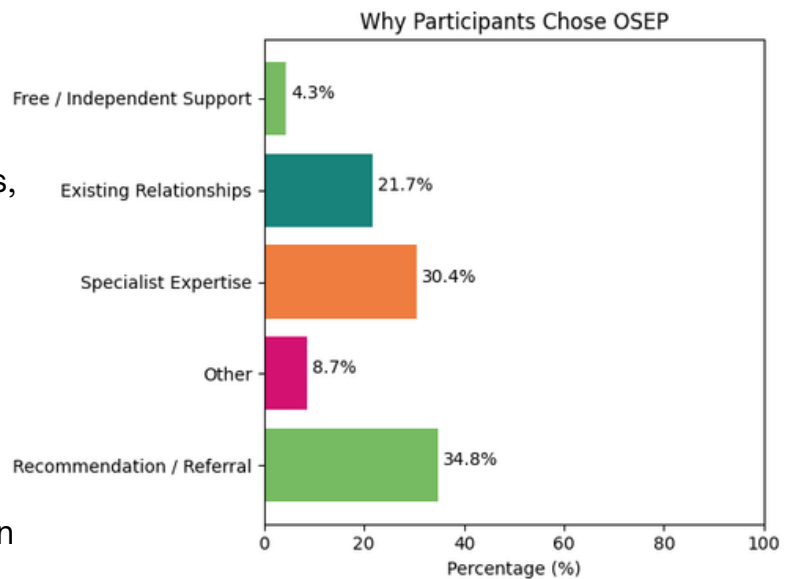




Participants reported a wide range of positive outcomes from the support, with the most significant impact being increased clarity and direction.

Many participants said they are now clearer on the next steps for their business and their overall strategic goals, highlighting the programme’s role in helping organisations move forward with confidence.

There was also a strong emphasis on peer learning and connection, with many participants valuing the opportunity to meet others in similar situations and learn from shared experiences.



In addition, participants developed practical skills and knowledge, including a better understanding of legal requirements, governance, and financial management. Several reported learning new skills or adopting new tools and processes to improve how their organisations operate.

The support also contributed to tangible organisational progress, with participants updating business plans, improving governance structures, and in some cases registering their organisations or increasing income through funding.

Overall, the programme supported both strategic clarity and practical development, enabling participants to strengthen their organisations and take meaningful next steps.

# Training

Eleven different training sessions across 6 months. Engaging over 90 people. Demand continues to remain high for advice and learning about governance and legal structures.

Feedback shows the training sessions supported both practical progress and strategic confidence:

- Organisations progressed from early ideas to registration, business plans, and pilot activity.
- Participants reported greater clarity in decision-making and direction.
- Access to tailored advice enabled focused next steps and problem-solving.
- Support helped individuals navigate complex areas such as governance, funding, and structure.

**GET SUPPORT TO DEVELOP YOUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE**

**FREE TRAINING AND WORKSHOPS**

**How to register as a Community Interest Company (CIC):**  
16th September, 10am-1pm, online

**Raising investment for your socially impactful business.**  
3<sup>rd</sup> October 3-5pm, Flo's the Place in the Park, Oxford - *booking essential*

**Enterprise Accelerator - developing your business idea + networking**  
18<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> November  
3-5pm, Aspire, Osney Lane, Oxford

**Finding Space for your social business**  
15<sup>th</sup> October, 4:30-6pm, online

**Marketing with a Mission: Defining your vision, mission and values**  
September 26<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm, The Junction, 42 Lydalls Rd, Didcot

**Sharing ownership: Is a Co-op right for your business?**  
23<sup>rd</sup> October, 5:30-7:30pm, online

**Form follows function: setting up the right legal structure for your social business**  
30<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm-4pm, online

**Unlocking Space- managing community assets**  
6<sup>th</sup> November, 4:30-6pm, online

**Let's Own It! An Introduction to Community and Worker-Owned Business**  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 10am-12pm  
The Junction, 42 Lydalls Rd, Didcot

**Marketing with a Mission: Making a marketing plan that works for you**  
7<sup>th</sup> November 2-4pm, The Junction, Didcot, 42 Lydalls Rd, Didcot

**Scoping the market & creating a business plan**  
18<sup>th</sup> November 5:30-7:30pm, online

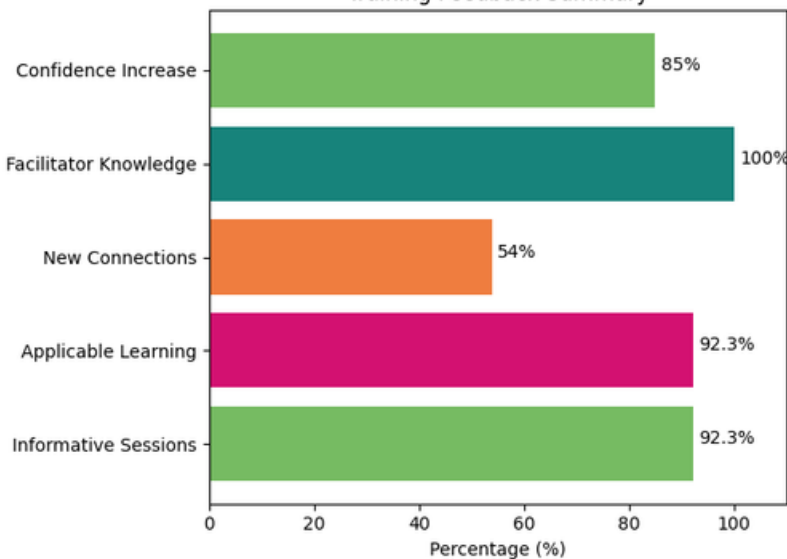
**BOOK YOUR PLACE:**  
[WWW.OSEP.ORG.UK/EVENTS](http://WWW.OSEP.ORG.UK/EVENTS)

**1:1 BUSINESS SUPPORT ALSO AVAILABLE**

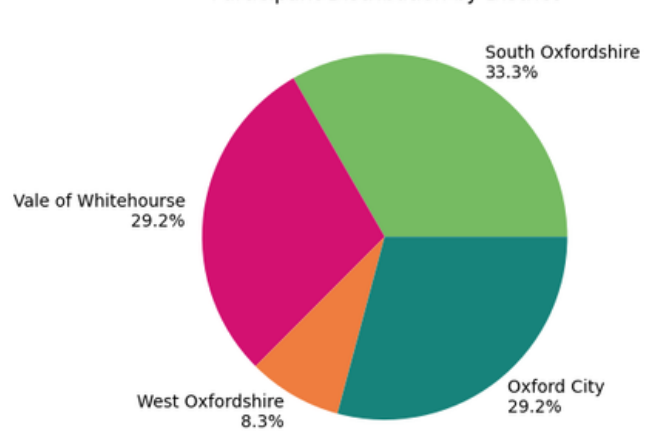
Funded by UK Government

South Oxfordshire District Council, OXFORD CITY COUNCIL, Vale of White Horse District Council

Training Feedback Summary



Participant Distribution by District



# Peer networks

Peer networks played a key role in fostering connection and collaboration, providing participants with a space to share experiences, build relationships and learn from one another. This approach helped reduce isolation, strengthen confidence and create a sense of belonging within the local enterprise community.

## Community Hubs

This peer group explored key aspects of community hub development, including assets, enterprise models and governance. It provided a space to share challenges, such as funding pressures and rising demand while identifying opportunities for community-led growth and local wealth building. The programme engaged a diverse range of community organisations developing local hubs across Oxfordshire.

These included initiatives focused on sustainability, regenerative land use, family support, food resilience and community wellbeing. Collectively, these groups are creating inclusive spaces that reduce isolation, strengthen local connections and support healthier, more resilient communities. Four organisations took part.

## Food

A series of tailored impact driven farm based sessions bringing together organic and non-organic growers for practical, hands-on learning. Sessions combined farm tours with focused discussions on key areas such as forecasting, packaging, produce standards and workforce development. Creating opportunities for peer exchange, shared learning and relationship-building, supporting growers to strengthen their operations and develop more sustainable, scalable approaches.

## Creatives connect

The Creative Peer Group provided a space for socially impactful creative practitioners to connect, share knowledge and build relationships, supporting collaboration, confidence and community within the sector. Six entrepreneurs engaged in these sessions, the info graphic shows some of the key outcomes and impact.



*"Over the past four months I have sold more work than ever before and am now financially able to support myself through painting."*

*"After taking on the '100 rejections' challenge I have secured a publishing agent for children's books, and had multiple meetings with publishers and have now been offered a book deal."*

# Case Study: Jafour

## Importing ethical produce from the Caribbean



### The Challenge

Jafour is developing a food enterprise importing dried fruit and nuts directly from the Caribbean for UK consumers, alongside a community investment model. At an early stage, the business required significant development support to refine its structure, test the concept, and prepare for launch.

### The Support

Through 1:1 support, Aspire provided comprehensive business development guidance. This included support with business planning, legal structure options, market research, supply chain development, branding, and preparing for market testing.

### The Impact

The support has helped transform the idea into a focused and testable business model.

### Outcomes include:

- Creation of a 5-year business and financial plan.
- Progress towards formalising legal structure.
- Launch of a live market testing phase.
- Development of supplier relationships and import research.
- New processes introduced across operations, marketing, and planning.

Jafour is now actively testing the concept through a pilot, including travelling to the Caribbean to explore supply chains and delivery routes.



# Case Study: Health Huddle CIC

## Empowering communities through health literacy

### The Challenge

Health Huddle CIC was founded to improve access to clear, culturally sensitive health information for underserved adults, including migrants, carers, and those facing digital or language barriers. Prior to support, the founder needed guidance on structuring the organisation and navigating funding in order to pilot their ideas.

### The Support

Co-operative Futures provided tailored 1:1 support on legal structure and governance, supporting the organisation to register as a CIC in 2025. Additional support included developing a business proposal, creating a budget, and identifying funding opportunities to launch a pilot programme.

### The Impact

Support has enabled Health Huddle to move from concept to a more structured and investment-ready organisation.

### Outcomes include:

- Successfully registered as a CIC.
- Developed a business and financial plan.
- Built new networks and partnerships.
- Prepared to pilot new services and secure funding.
- Health Huddle has already begun engaging communities through initiatives such as Digital Cafés, public health Q&As, and accessible online content.

“The fact that my advisor believed in what I’m trying to build really encouraged me. Thank you so much for their incredibly kind and encouraging words. The support through OSEP is genuinely inspiring and so important. I understand the challenges social enterprises face, even with such a clear mission and calling. If I hadn’t come across OSEP, I probably wouldn’t have tried either! It gives me strength not to give up.”



White Horse Medical Practice logo

**Thursday**  
**26 March**  
**11am-3pm**

- Meet our Health Champions
- Learn about local groups and activities
- Enjoy a free smoothie and friendly conversation
- Free Blood Pressure Checks
- Southmoor Walk at 10:00 as usual

WHMP Meeting room  
Volunteer Way,  
Faringdon  
SN7 7YU



Social Prescribers voicemail 01367 242726

# Case Study: Hekima Bridge

## Accelerating organisational readiness and community Impact

### The Challenge

Hekima Bridge support people who face barriers in life, including poor mental health, addiction recovery, social exclusion, lack of education, or unemployment. Inspired by the founders own personal experience. They were at a critical early stage, with a strong social mission but limited formal structure. The organisation faced key barriers around registration, governance and building the partnerships needed to access funding and deliver services. Without targeted support, progress risked being slow and fragmented, limiting the organisation's ability to respond to community need.

### The Intervention

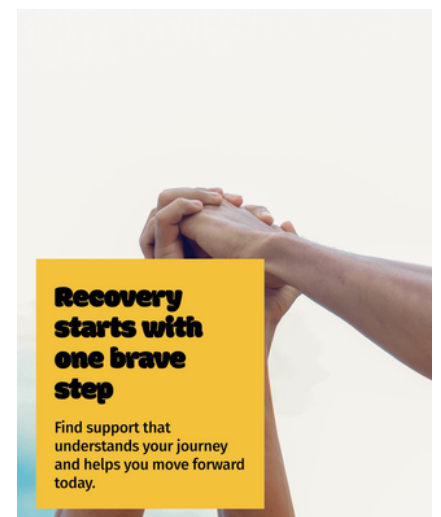
Through tailored support from AFiUK, Hekima Bridge received intensive, practical guidance to accelerate its development and readiness for delivery. Including practical guidance on registration, governance, banking, and fundraising

### The Impact

The support has significantly accelerated Hekima Bridge's transition from concept to an operational, investable organisation.

### Key outcomes include:

- Registered as a CIC December 2025.
- Substantial progress towards formal registration and governance structures.
- Increased organisational readiness for funding and delivery.
- Strengthened leadership capacity and decision-making confidence.
- Expanded networks and partnerships, improving access to support and collaboration opportunities.
- Clearer pathway to sustainable service delivery and growth.



# Case Study: Sustainable Wantage

## Strengthening Financial Sustainability for Community Action

Sustainable Wantage is a volunteer-led organisation working to reduce waste, improve biodiversity, and strengthen community resilience. While they have delivered environmental initiatives for over a decade, they faced challenges in making their services, particularly their refill shop and Library of Things financially sustainable and less reliant on grant funding. Alongside this, they were reviewing their services following a large-scale community consultation to better meet local needs.

### The Support

Co-operative Futures provided targeted support to analyse the financial performance of their key activities. This included developing a detailed financial model to support forecasting, enabling the organisation to test different approaches and make informed decisions about sustainability.

### The Impact

The support has enabled Sustainable Wantage to take a more strategic and data-driven approach to their operations.

Outcomes include:

- Development of a robust financial model and plan.
- Improved understanding of income streams and cost structures.
- Introduction of new processes for financial planning and decision-making.
- Strengthened approach to long-term sustainability
- Continued development of partnerships and community services.

Combining expert financial insight with a tailored approach helped the organisation clearly understand the viability of its activities and identify realistic pathways to increase income and resilience.

“It was really useful to work with Cooperative Futures to look at the income we generate... and the possibilities for making them a more substantial and reliable part of our income.”



# Case Study: YWMP

## Creating safe creative spaces for young people in Oxfordshire

### The Challenge

YWMP supports marginalised young people in Oxfordshire particularly young women, trans and non-binary creatives who face barriers to accessing music due to lack of funding, equipment, and safe spaces. Operating from a small shared studio limited their ability to grow and meet demand.

### The Support

With support from Makespace and partners, YWMP secured and moved into its first dedicated venue, The Nest, in Oxford city centre. Support included lease negotiation, safety compliance, and fit-out guidance, alongside building capacity to manage the space effectively.

### The Impact

The new space has enabled YWMP to significantly expand its services and reach.

### Outcomes include:

- Launch of a new creative hub with workshops, rehearsal space, and peer support.
- Increased capacity and new partnerships.
- Secured funding and developed business and financial plans.
- Improved operational processes.

The Nest now provides a vital safe, inclusive space for young creatives to connect, develop skills, and express themselves.



# Case Study: Afghan Women's Catering Initiative

## Building Skills and Pathways to Employment

### Overview

This is an example of very early stage support. A group of Afghan women came together with the wish of creating employment opportunities within their community through a catering-based social enterprise, sharing their culture and skills through food.

### The Challenge

The group is facing multiple barriers to starting a business, including language, cultural differences, and unfamiliarity with UK systems. They also need to understand how to move from informal home cooking to operating a professional, compliant catering service. Practical challenges include setting up a bank account, understanding legal structures such as a CIC, and gaining the skills required to run a sustainable enterprise.

### The Support

Support and guidance is being provided by Nuha of Damascus Rose kitchen, a successful social entrepreneur, herself a refugee. The group are receiving a combination of practical training, mentoring, and real-world testing opportunities.

### The support plan includes:

- Developing coaching and mentoring skills.
- Testing their idea through community catering events.
- Building practical knowledge in menu planning, portion sizing, and costing.
- Gaining food hygiene certification.
- Understanding legal structures and business setup in the UK.

### Key outcomes we hope to see:

- Increased confidence and skills to run a catering enterprise.
- Real-world experience through pilot catering events.
- Improved understanding of UK business requirements.
- Progress towards creating sustainable employment opportunities.

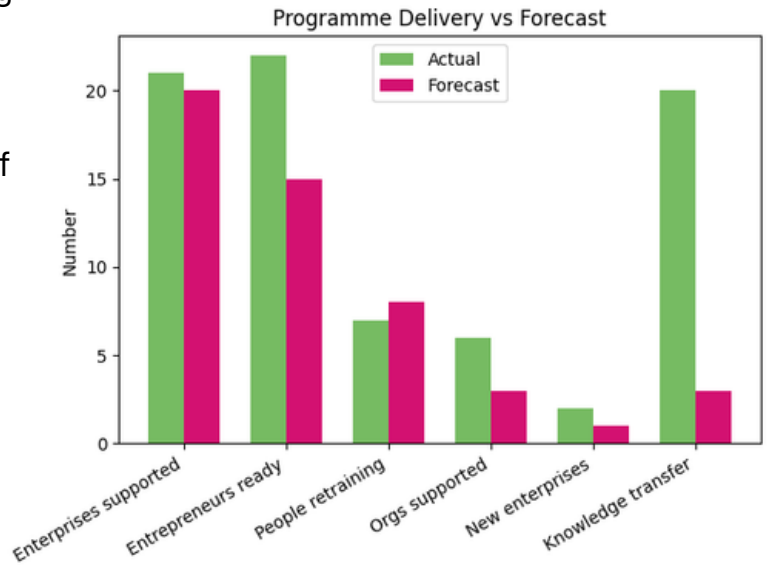


# Targets

## Oxford City Council

Overall, the programme met or exceeded the majority of its targets, demonstrating strong delivery and impact.

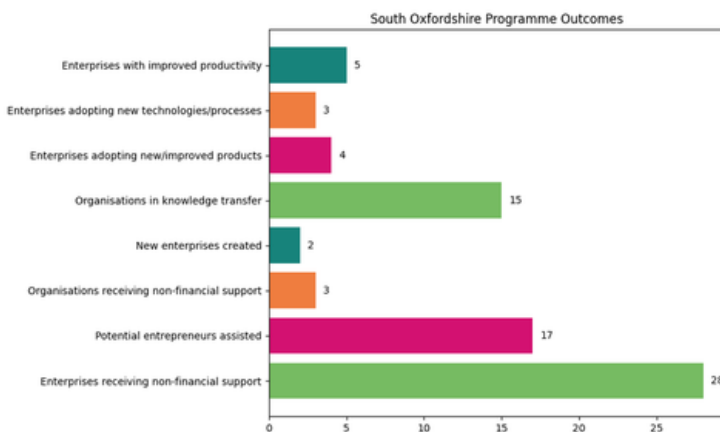
- 21 enterprises received non-financial support, slightly exceeding the target of 20
- 22 potential entrepreneurs were supported to become enterprise ready, significantly surpassing the target of 15
- 7 people retrained, slightly below the target of 8



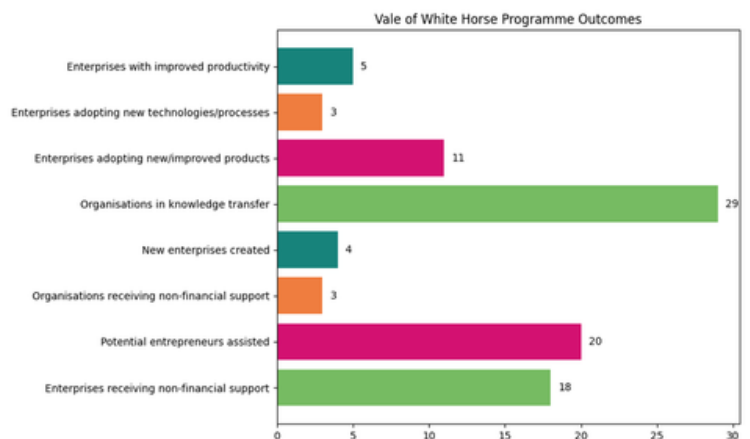
## Outcomes

- 2 new enterprises were created, exceeding the target of 1
- 20 organisations engaged in knowledge transfer activity, far exceeding the target of 3

## South Oxfordshire District Council



## VOWH District Council



The contract extension successfully expanded delivery across both districts, supporting 45 enterprises/entrepreneurs in South Oxfordshire and 38 in Vale of White Horse. Supported with strong engagement in knowledge sharing particularly in Vale (29 organisations engaged).

While 6 new enterprises were legally registered, a further 5 are close to registration, demonstrating a strong pipeline. Noting 6 months is a short window. Across both areas, enterprises also reported improvements to their products and services, highlighting meaningful progress beyond initial targets.

# Final showcase event

The final showcase event brought together 38 participants, celebrating the achievements of a diverse cohort of impact-driven entrepreneurs addressing some of Oxfordshire's most pressing social, environmental, and economic challenges. The event highlighted the power of partnership and place-based investment. Attendees heard from three social entrepreneurs sharing their journeys and engaged with six exhibiting organisations, showcasing their products and services. The event provided valuable opportunities for participants to build confidence, promote their work, and connect with peers and partners, demonstrating the strong pipeline of emerging enterprises and the potential for continued local impact.



# List of organisations (individuals excluded)

- Abingdon Therapy and Mediation
- ACAFSG (Afro/Carib Autism Family Support)
- ACAFSG & Taiwil Fashion
- ACHI Afro Fitness
- Adrian Sell
- Afghan Women's Group
- Afghan Women's Group (Abingdon Catering)
- AFIUK Housing Group
- After Cloud
- Aton Coaching
- Bounce
- Concert Circle
- Cook School
- COSAWE (Community Support and Welfare)
- Cowley Road Traders
- Cricket Oxfordshire
- Croft Court Co-op
- Chrysalis CIC / Chrysalis Connect / The Wondering
- Cutteslowe Greenhouse
- Evoking Belonging
- Didcot Housing Co-op
- Didcot Migrants Group
- Eco-build Business
- Fig and Honey Catering
- Flamelilly
- Frogponics
- Game Changer
- GroW (Grove & Wantage Family Community Group)
- Health Huddle CIC
- Hekima Trust / Hekima Bridge
- Her Land
- Hogacre Common Eco Park
- Honk Studios
- Indie Oxford
- Inspire Sounds
- Integrate Community
- Iraqi Women Art and War
- Mama Afrika
- Marston Community Gardening
- Naga Yoga
- NAC
- Networked Energy for South Summertown
- New Leaf Forest School
- Oxford Chinese Dance School
- Oxford Concert Circle
- Oxford Eco Urbanism
- Oxford Housing Co-op
- Oxford Wood Recycling
- OX10
- Repair Shop Watlington
- Riverside Counselling
- SANKOFA Coaching
- SEN Families Unite
- Sesame
- Simply Equality Ltd
- SJ Cleaning Company
- Social Bunch
- South Oxfordshire Family Room CIC
- Sudanese Women's Group
- Sustainable Wantage
- Survivor Space
- Taiwo
- The Gatehouse
- The Makery
- Tribe Zero Waste
- UK Atomic Energy Agency
- Uncomfortable Oxford
- VC Soul Studio
- Vetted Plus
- Vishuddha Yoga Centre
- Wallingford for All
- We Empowered CIC
- Well-being Co-op
- With Us
- Wolvercote Food Hub
- Wolvercote Mill
- Wolvercote Young People's Club
- Women's Coaching Business
- YWMP

# Reflections and learnings

## What Worked Well

- The programme achieved strong engagement and delivered meaningful support within a short timeframe:
- High demand and reach with strong representation from underrepresented and marginalised communities, including refugees, asylum seekers and migrant groups.
- A collaborative delivery model, bringing together diverse advisors to provide tailored support and reach a wide range of organisations.
- A combination of training, mentoring, and peer learning, helping participants build skills, confidence, and connections.
- Capacity building within partner organisations, strengthening the longer-term support ecosystem.

## Key Learning

The programme has provided valuable consolidating how best to support early-stage and growing social enterprises:

- Continued demand for accessible, tailored support, particularly for organisations that face barriers to mainstream provision.
- The importance of combining training with follow-on support to embed learning and enable progress.
- The value of strong partnerships and networks in reaching and supporting diverse communities.
- We have developed some legacy resources based on common asks that will be on the website as a way to signpost people to self learn.

The programme has played a significant role in supporting a more inclusive local economy by reaching individuals and groups who are often underserved by mainstream business support. This includes women, migrants, refugee communities, grassroots organisations, and those working in community-led initiatives.

By providing accessible, culturally relevant and tailored support, the programme has enabled participants to overcome barriers such as language, confidence, lack of networks, and unfamiliarity with UK systems. Many participants have progressed from early ideas to taking concrete steps toward enterprise, building skills, confidence, and economic independence. Importantly, the programme has also strengthened community-led solutions, supporting organisations that address local needs such as well-being, food access, environmental sustainability and social inclusion. This contributes to a more resilient and equitable economy, where diverse voices are represented, and communities are empowered to shape and deliver their own solutions.



*"I choose OSEP because of its track record for specialist SE support"*

*"It facilitated important strategic conversations as a business which has ultimately influenced how we plan on moving forward. It also connected us to events such as the meet the buyers event in Oxford which will allow us to reach new markets and grow in a meaningful way, allowing us to increase the impact we are having."*

*"The expertise was well targeted to our needs"*



*"The development path was of major importance us so that we could position ourselves to prioritise collaboration and partnership working. I believe the support we received confirmed our approach and gave us some concrete ways of moving this forward in our planning and development"*

*"It was a brilliant opportunity to have the space and focus to work through our challenges together"*

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