

GETTING PLACES WORKING

Social enterprise development officer

Jamie Oliver's restaurant, Fifteen, is a social enterprise. So are housing associations, recycling projects, healthy living schemes, development trusts and community radio stations. A social enterprise is a business with a social purpose, and it's one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy. The job means helping social entrepreneurs to get their ideas off the ground, advising on business plans, raising finance, marketing and liaising with public bodies. You don't need a degree, as you'll be trained on the job, but previous business experience is a bonus. Mostly, you need to be committed to working in a socially responsible environment – someone who's active in the community.

Degree needed

No degree is required. Social enterprise development officers need a combination of training and experience.

Good courses

- Co-operative and Social Enterprise Development Worker
- Training (Co-operative Assistance Network Limited)
- Professional Development for Social Enterprise Advisors series (RISE)
- Master of Studies (MSt) in Social Enterprise and Community Development (University of Cambridge)

Facts and figures

Starting salary

Officers at a regional development agency earn £15,323.

Working hours

Variable, but at least 37 per week.

Days' holiday

20-25.

Skills and experience

A commitment to working in a co-operative or socially responsible environment is essential.



Bob Bridge at work

Business and Community Development Officer,
Longly Organised Community Association



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Bob Bridge,
Longly Organised
Community Association

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“We provide services like community centres and community cafés, giving local people local jobs, and ploughing profits back in. Regeneration is something we should do with people, not to them.”

Did you know?

Social enterprises are one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy, from high profile businesses such as Jamie Oliver's Fifteen restaurant to housing estate-based recycling projects and community radio stations.

More information

- The Co-operative Assistance Network is a key source of information www.co-op-assist.co.uk
- The Social Enterprise Coalition represents social enterprises in the UK www.socialenterprise.org.uk
- RISE supports social enterprises in southwest England www.rise-sw.co.uk

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