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Considering a New Year career change? Start a Social Enterprise in 2015

Many of us see the advent of a New Year as the time to ring in the changes and look for a new job – or, better still, realise a dream of starting our own business. Bank of Scotland and the School for Social Entrepreneurs are calling out to motivated entrepreneurs with a desire to inspire social change to realise their dream by offering them a funding grant, business mentorship and year-long training programme.

The Programme provides practical facilitated learning in addition to financial grants to help new entrepreneurs develop their social enterprise idea. The Start-up programme offers a £4,000 grant, a year of dedicated training and assigned 'business mentor' to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Your idea starts here

In February and March Bank of Scotland and the School for Social Entrepreneurs Scotland will host taster sessions across Scotland to showcase the opportunities on offer to aspiring and existing social entrepreneurs.

Taster sessions will be held following locations:

- Dundee
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow
- Stirling

Students from the Programme have so far developed scores of unique and exciting enterprises that have helped make significant benefits in their communities and further afield.

Chris Hellawell founder of the Edinburgh Tool Library, an Edinburgh-based charity offering a tool borrowing and training service, commented: "Having been inspired to support community learning in Edinburgh, the opportunities offered by the Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme has given me the chance to kick start the Edinburgh Tool Library and bring to life our vision, offering a tool lending service in Edinburgh and deliver training and development opportunities for our members to learn new skills. Both the grant and training opportunities offered by the programme have helped my personal development and in turn helped with the charity's contribution to the communities we work in."

The Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme plays a vital role in the Bank of Scotland's business strategy to Help Britain Prosper, and is dedicated to supporting social entrepreneurs in communities across Scotland to help stimulate economic growth and regeneration. Since 2012 more than 700 students have graduated from the Programme and the Bank maintains commitment to support 1,300 social entrepreneurs by 2017.



Philip Grant, Regional Ambassador at Bank of Scotland, said: “I have seen first-hand the positive impact that social entrepreneurs have in our society, and know of the immense benefit in nurturing their commitment to making a social impact through entrepreneurship. Our partnership with the School for Social Entrepreneurs sits right at the heart of our business strategy to help Britain prosper and we are eager to hear the new ideas to inspire social change that will come from this year’s recruits.”

Alastair Wilson, CEO of the School for Social Entrepreneurs, said: “Working in partnership with Bank of Scotland has enabled us to support hundreds of the most inspiring social enterprises in the UK. This year we’re thrilled to be supporting even more individuals with a desire to impact social change and look forward to seeing how their enterprises develop and grow.”

If you would like to attend a taster session, visit www.yourideastartshere.co.uk where you can find your nearest location and the relevant dates. Individuals are welcome to attend taster sessions and/or apply to any location.

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Notes to Editors:

About the Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme

The partnership with the School for Social Entrepreneurs sits right at the heart of the Bank of Scotland’s business strategy to Help Britain Prosper. It is one of its flagship programmes designed to support social entrepreneurs in communities and, through them, help stimulate economic growth and regeneration across the UK.

The School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) has 17 years of experience designing and delivering action learning programmes for social entrepreneurs. SSE currently delivers programmes in 12 UK locations and has international schools in Ireland, Canada and Australia. For more information on the SSE, its programmes and impact visit www.the-sse.org.



Launched in April 2012, the Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs Programme provides both financial support and access to a comprehensive learning programme including a business mentoring scheme. Over the next five years the programme, which is also supported by The Big Lottery Fund, will support around 1,300 social entrepreneurs to Start and Scale innovative social organisations.

About Bank of Scotland

Bank of Scotland is part of Lloyds Banking Group, the largest financial services investor in UK communities. The Group has a combined history that stretches back more than 300 years and a heritage of making a difference within its communities that spans many decades. In March 2014, the Group published its Helping Britain Prosper Plan, setting out seven separate and significant public commitments to address some of the big issues facing Britain today. As part of the Plan, the Group has committed to supporting 1,300 entrepreneurs through the Lloyds Bank and Bank of Scotland Social Entrepreneurs programme by 2017.