

'Making a Mark'

Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

SWEDA

SWEDA (Skills Work and Enterprise Development Agency) was originally set up by a network of business women in 1989, initially to support Women's Enterprise, but the needs of the families were such that we soon provided information and advice to the wider community.



We provide services to all the diverse communities in Sandwell and the surrounding Black Country area. Our service provision tackles the barriers faced by many people when wishing to access jobs, training, education and self-employment, by providing quality tailored support to meet the specific needs of the clients. The SWEDA team helps all clients who access their services to develop practical skills empowering and enabling them to progress and achieve their goals.

Our key aim is to assist women, men and young people over the age of 16 to achieve their full potential by supporting their overall development and paths into employment, self-employment, education and training.

The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to provide 'social impact statements', which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives.

Below are examples of how **SWEDA** is Making a Mark, striving to make a difference to local communities:

Email: Sweda@sweda.org.uk
Website: <http://www.sweda.org.uk/>
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Social inputs – employability and business support

SWEDA has a strong team of employability specialists on hand ready to help the unemployed towards gaining employment. Our 'ready for work' training aims to assist clients in gaining the relevant skills before they enter or re-enter the work place.

We have worked with partners to increase the awareness of Dementia and provided training and resources to help those affected by this condition including carers and relatives.

We also offer a variety of business support for anyone who is unemployed and thinking of becoming self-employed or starting a Social Enterprise.

Social outputs – supporting over 1,400 individuals

We have supported in excess of **1,400** individuals, either with employability issues or self-employment concerns.

In partnership with Unltd and Sandwell Council, we have helped over 50 local people to access a small grant to develop their Social Enterprise ideas.

Social outcomes – confident clients

Clients are confident to return to work, after training, which prepares them to:

- identify job opportunities
- develop their CV
- improve their interview techniques
- and much more....



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