



THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MARK  
TRADING FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

# 'Making a Mark'

## Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

### Big Issue Invest

Big Issue Invest is the social investment arm of The Big Issue, which was set up as a business solution to the social crisis of homelessness, giving homeless people the opportunity to earn their own income. While the magazine offers "a hand up" to people in the depths of homelessness crises, Big Issue Invest supports the scale-up of social businesses, charities and ventures that respond to social needs and help prevent people from reaching crisis point in the first place.

Our mission is to back sustainable social enterprises and ventures that help tackle poverty and inequality. We provide finance to help scale up and grow economically viable community and social enterprises that are unable to raise sufficient funding for their projects from conventional sources.



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 **Big Issue Invest** is Making a Mark, striving to make a difference to local communities:

### Social inputs – supporting social enterprises to grow

We invest in social enterprises that offer support and services to a variety of socially and economically disadvantaged groups including:

- people with low incomes
- people with long term health conditions

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- people who are long-term unemployed
- disabled people
- older people with health and care needs
- vulnerable children and young people



Big Issue Invest is a “social investment financial intermediary”; part of a growing movement of organisations that harness the power of financial investment to grow social enterprises that are responding to urgent social needs. We raise money privately and invest in organisations that are delivering vital community services to enable them to grow and achieve sustainability.

## Social outputs – investing to create social impact

The Big Issue exists to offer people a first step on the path out of poverty. While the Magazine and Foundation work directly with Vendors to help them move forward, Big Issue Invest supports other charities and social enterprises to do the same.

We have invested over **£30 million** in social ventures and advised on the investment of a further **£85 million**, invested in the Threadneedle UK Social Bond Fund to ensure those funds are reaching businesses that have a positive social impact.

## Helping to improve social outcomes

Our investment has helped charities and social enterprises to develop their capacity and improve their own social outcomes. Highlights include:

- **Launching Social Enterprise Investment Fund II** - already raised **£9m** and invested in innovative projects
- **Threadneedle UK Social Bond Fund** - under the advice of Big Issue Invest, this fund enables ordinary individuals to invest their savings in socially beneficial businesses, bringing social investment to the mainstream market
- **2nd Corporate Social Venturing programme** - invested **£891,000** in 26 nascent social businesses helping them to get off the ground

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