



# 'Making a Mark'

## Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

### Compass Project

The Compass Project is a collective of people in recovery from addiction, working together to move forward. Completely changing one's life is something that takes enormous courage and heart. We are proud to be in recovery and want others to find the same joy.

We are a social enterprise operated entirely by people in recovery from addiction.



We raise the majority of our funds through our two 2nd hand stores and restoration workshop. All monies go back into the project to help and support our members address behavioural issues and develop core work skills.

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 **Compass Project** is Making a Mark, striving to make a difference to local communities:

### Social inputs – supporting recovery from addiction

Over the last year we operated two recycled goods shops - a used furniture warehouse and restoration workshop in Staple Hill (the most deprived neighbourhood in South Gloucestershire) and a charity style retail shop in Bristol. We received donations from the local community and revenue was re-invested in the work of the organisation. All of our trading income has been reinvested into the social enterprise.

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Our members work on a voluntary basis in the shops. This enables them to start addressing issues of confidence and self-esteem by slowly changing values, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours through experience-based learning.

This is achieved when they allow themselves to experience, in a drug free/sober state, what actually happens when confronted with challenging work situations and interactions with the wider community.

## Social outputs – welcoming new members

This year we were able to accept **35** new members. Members can refer themselves, but can also be referred to us from the many local organisations we collaborate with. Of our 45 members, **93%** completed their volunteer work with Compass Project and maintained their recovery during their membership.

We were also able to service approximately 50 households a month, many of which are low-income families and older people suffering from social exclusion in the most deprived areas of South Gloucestershire and Bristol.

## Social outcomes – helping break down barriers

After volunteering with us the unique barriers faced by our members' dissolve, as they no longer feel isolated and misunderstood. They no longer feel ashamed about their anxieties or lack of discipline.

There is free communication about these issues because everyone, from the founders to the newest member, has experienced them. As a result we see benefits to our members, including increases in self-esteem, confidence and trust.

We also encourage interaction with the local community to dissipate stigmas surrounding addiction and ex-offenders, and both our members and the wider community are able to restore trust in each other.



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