



'Making a Mark'

Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

South Shropshire Furniture Scheme

The Furniture Scheme was started in 1994 to address a growing need to find a way to reuse and recycle unwanted household items.



We directly place resources into the homes of some of the most excluded members of our community, ensuring these people can begin to build an independent life and home without increasing debt. 100% of funds raised are reinvested into the organisation to support growth and help more people.

We also seek to protect the environment and increase environmental sustainability. This is achieved through reuse and recycling and we encourage people to avoid sending items to landfill.

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 **The Furniture Scheme** is Making a Mark, committed to make a difference to people and planet.

Social inputs – improving quality of life

We seek to improve the quality of life for disadvantaged people living in southern Shropshire. We offer a houseful of essential furniture for just £40 to those individuals and families most in need.

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We work to strengthen communities at our community centres where we facilitate a range of activities including regular community lunches, fitness classes, training, and IT drop in sessions where local people can learn how to get online, create a CV and apply for jobs.

In 2016, we have especially focussed on people aged between 25 and 55 who are suffering with mental ill health. Our 'Working with Wood' project aims to help those struggling with mental health by offering supported placements in our carpentry workshop. We have also run a series of workshop aimed at women called 'Women in the workshop', which has helped women to develop new skills and confidence.



Social outputs – key measures of support provided

- **40** households have received furniture referral packages worth between £550 and £1500 each
- **1,337** items were sold at a discount to those in receipt of benefits
- **53** people living in social housing have loaned garden equipment from our community centres
- **132** young people have taken part in holiday schemes and youth activities at our centres
- More than **33,000** people have used our community centres and accessed community activities and services
- **120** people completed training - 108 went into volunteering over 12 months, of these 25 went into employment

Social outcomes – creating benefits for local people

We are currently working to apply a value to our outputs and hope to have this available in early 2017.

We have numerous case studies that demonstrate how people have benefitted from the services we provide – please [visit our website](#) to read their stories.

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