



THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MARK  
TRADING FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

## 'Making a Mark'

### Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

#### Somerset Care & Repair

Somerset Care & Repair (SC&R) is a Home Improvement Agency (HIA), which provides a range of services designed around the needs of clients to help them stay within their own homes.

We offer information and aid to help elderly, disabled and vulnerable people make the adaptations and improvements required to live safely and comfortably in their own homes. Any surpluses that are generated by our trading activities go directly back into providing services.

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 **SC&R** is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

#### Supporting people to live independent lives

We provide a range of services, including disabled adaptations for the elderly and disabled, bringing empty properties back into use for those in greatest housing need, recycling of furniture made available to those on low incomes, training of the long term unemployed and ex-offenders on building sites and within the furniture recycling unit.

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To date we have brought back into use 75 empty properties, providing work experience training and work readiness for the long term unemployed. This has resulted in over 30 volunteers either finding work or undertaking FE courses. The properties are made available to those in greatest need on the Local Authority housing waiting list.

We also have a furniture recycling unit and a mobility and adaptations show room, and undertake adaptations for the elderly and disabled.

## **Example measures of support provided**

We have **75** properties, which house single tenants, couples and families, all supported by SC&R staff to maintain their tenancy. In addition, we have undertaken countless adaptations, which not only helps the client but impacts greatly on the clients' family.

We have assisted over **100** volunteers providing work experience and training. We have also supported trainees in employment, housing and education and are currently in talks with all our tenants to get those that are unemployed into long-term work or education.

## **Benefits created for local communities**

Local communities have gained by having 75 properties back in use, reducing degradation to the area and housing the homeless. This reduces antisocial behaviour, increased local house value and improved the aesthetics of the area.



An ex-offender with violent tendencies has spent 6 months on-site training with us and turned his life around. We found him a home and a job. His attitude has completely changed and multiple agencies have congratulated us on changing him so dramatically. 3 other ex-offenders have found long-term employment after training with us.

We provided support for a tenant with over £2,000 of rents arrears who has now brought the debt down to £400 with advice, support and patience from our housing officer.

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