

## 'Making a Mark'

### Mark Holder Social Impact Declaration

#### Social Ark CIC

Social Ark CIC is a social enterprise supporting young people in Tower Hamlets to develop social businesses and projects.

We run a social enterprise incubator programme, which supports young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to use their lived experiences to develop social businesses of their own.



We understand the value of empowering young people who may have otherwise been overlooked or 'written off'. We are determined to create a resilient community where individuals are defined by how they empower and champion each other, rather than personal wealth or social backgrounds.

The Social Enterprise Mark criteria includes a requirement for all applicants and renewing Mark Holders to answer a set of social impact questions, which illustrate how they are striving to meet their social/environmental objectives. Below are examples of how **Social Ark CIC** is Making a Mark, striving to create a positive impact on people and planet.

#### Improving community cohesion

We support young people from disadvantaged backgrounds to set up social enterprises and projects that benefit their local community at the same time as helping them to secure employment.

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Website: <https://socialarkcic.co.uk/>

This encourages and improves community cohesion, making the streets safer for local young people in Tower Hamlets and encouraging them to use their lived experiences to change their lives and encourage others from similar backgrounds to do the same.

## Example measures of support provided

Over the past 3 years, we have directly nurtured the development of 26 social enterprises. We also supported an additional 130 young people.

We provided over 4,500 hours of business learning and delivered over 3,500 hours of 1:1 support.

We have also assisted and funded over 500 free inclusive community activities, which directly benefited over 400 Tower Hamlets residents. We have also introduced what it means to be socially conscious and the concept of social entrepreneurship to over 500 local people.

## Supporting others to benefit their communities

Moses Adeyemi is the founder and CEO of the SilverLine Programme, which uses mental and physical training to improve wellbeing. He is an ex-offender who came to Social Ark as a 'last stop' after constantly experiencing doors being shut on him, due to his background.

He is now successfully delivering the tried and tested SilverLine fitness programmes to public services, as well as youth and community organisations across the UK.



*"It's great to be part of the Social Ark family. As an ex-offender, it was difficult because I found that people didn't take me seriously. Social Ark was the bridge between where I was coming from and where I was trying to go.*

*The continued support that I've received has been vital to the sustainability of the SilverLine Programme... Being able to access that critical friend and sounding board that has your back 100% has also been invaluable."*

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