Enterprising Communities, Regenerating Neighbourhoods

By and for the people!!

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London

As:

• a metropolis
  where many paths converge and diverge

• a crossroads

• a hub city
  where many communities from many countries of the world live and trade
Trade Enterprise Business

- Who engages in this activity and why?
- **Migrants, immigrants, refugees**, settled communities, minorities and majorities
- How do we define “them”?  
- Do “they” have different imperatives for starting businesses?  
- Are some cultures more entrepreneurial than others, if so why?

Some possible reasons:

- Difficulties in accessing labour market due to discrimination, lack of relevant skills  
- Drive to succeed on one's own terms  
- “Informal” economy as a space to build economic security
EQUAL in Action
REFLEX/SIED model

• SIED- Supporting Inclusion in Enterprise Development

• Intersection of two key policy priorities:
Social Inclusion and Economic Regeneration
At the core of SIED
  ▶ recognition and acknowledgement of individuals as belonging to groups, communities and networks
  ▶ community based organisations embedded in those communities
Social Inclusion

- Inclusion is different from integration or assimilation
- It recognises the fact that different individuals and communities face different barriers that affect their life chances
- It recognises that people and communities are assets and not a set of problems
- It aims to engage and involve them in mainstream activities through accessible opportunities and resources.
Innovators and Creators
# 26 SIED Community Based Organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afghan Community</th>
<th>Eritrean Community in the UK</th>
<th>Lewisham EMP</th>
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<tr>
<td>African Comm. Partnership</td>
<td>Ethiopian Development Assoc.</td>
<td>MWH</td>
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<td>Algerian British Connection</td>
<td>HALKEVI</td>
<td>Pepys' Community Forum</td>
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<td>An-Viet</td>
<td>Hopscotch Asian Womens</td>
<td>Somali Speakers Assoc.</td>
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<td>ARACHNE</td>
<td>Iranian Comm.</td>
<td>The Gate Construction</td>
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<td>Bengoli Workers Assoc.</td>
<td>Islington Bangladeshi Assoc.</td>
<td>The HELP</td>
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<td>Caraf Centre</td>
<td>Islington Chinese Assoc.</td>
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<td>Care Alliance Refugee</td>
<td>KT Somali WA</td>
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<td>DAYMER</td>
<td>Latin American WRS</td>
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Equal SIED Partnership

Some of the partners:

• London Borough of Islington-Lead Partner
• Islington Training network
• Islington Enterprise Agency
• Prevista Ltd
• ACBBA
• London Borough of Camden
• London Borough of Lewisham
• Kingston University
• London Advisory Services Alliance-LASA
• CENTA-Camden Enterprise Agency
• CTN-Camden Training Network
• Prowess
• Institute of Business Advisers
SIED Project-key objectives

- To empower and connect community based business support to the mainstream
- To develop a new way to deliver business support via community based organisations
- To research and develop minority ethnic business networks
- To conduct research to support effectiveness of objectives
The project – some key achievements

- Enhanced knowledge base & increased capacity of Community Based Organisations (CBO) to deliver business & enterprise support
- Resourcing CBOs to employ Business Advisers
- Accreditation of Community Based Business Advisers
- Production of materials and practice tools
- Working with policy makers to influence change
- Working with trans-national partners
Empowerment and Equality

- Cross-cultural approaches which recognises plurality as a strength
- Direct engagement of “beneficiaries” from project inception to delivery as equal partners
- Asset based approach rather than needs and problem based
About Islington Training Network

• Example of an innovative “embedded” organisation:
• Membership based, second tier NGO
• Strategic infra-structure and capacity building role-”learning by doing”
• Highly professional yet close to the ground
• Local yet working across regions and Europe wide
Finally----

• For further information:
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