

Embargo: Not for publication or broadcast before mid December

New phase of support for social entrepreneurship in higher education

UnLtd, the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs, launched the next phase of SEE Change this month, a programme to develop and embed an eco-system of social entrepreneur supporters within higher education.

The new phase will be delivered with 20 university partners including a diverse range of institutions in the North and South of England and an alliance of 15 wider agencies, with the aim of facilitating a self-sustaining culture of social entrepreneurship within universities. The programme will benefit from a wide coalition of partners, including Social Enterprise UK, NESTA and Social Investment Business.

In SEE Change's earlier phases, UnLtd proved that Universities are a fertile ground for both activating social entrepreneurs and for putting in place infrastructure to support them, through a partnership with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and investment totalling in excess of £5 million – which in turn was matched by universities. As a result, there are now capable teams able to support social entrepreneurs in 85 Universities in England.

The next phase of SEE Change aims to make the eco-system self-sustaining, funded by diverse income sources including universities, corporate partners, social economy partners, local and regional partners and other bodies.

Ed Hughes, Regional Consultant at HEFCE, fully endorses this work: "SEE Change is about to launch another year working with partners across the HE sector and beyond. This new programme will maintain the momentum from HEFCE's earlier investments,

enhance peer learning and further support the university sector as leading partners within the social entrepreneurship ecosystem, ensuring 'Campus Communities' can thrive."

The next phase of SEE Change will involve building networks of social entrepreneurship which will showcase good practice, innovation, tools and resources and allow universities to collaborate and connect.

Cliff Prior, CEO at UnLtd, said: "UnLtd firmly believes that it's time for social entrepreneurship to go mainstream. That means embedding a culture of social entrepreneurship firmly within society – so we are extremely proud of our work with universities, which has fostered this culture within hundreds of higher education institutions within the UK. Now, it's time to deepen and broaden this eco-system so it becomes self-sustaining, with the help of a vibrant group of like-minded partners and investors. We look forward to seeing what SEE Change delivers next."

The SEE Change programme is working with many national strategic partners to expand and progress this work Chris Dadson, Head of Business Development at The Social Investment Business Group (SIB) added: "SIB has been delighted to work with UnLtd examining the current landscape for social innovation in Universities. Our joint report, Campus Communities, set out a series of clear recommendations aimed at developing more impactful social entrepreneurs. We are excited about the opportunity to continue working together helping build that strong ecosystem of support where social entrepreneurs can thrive."

Universities interested in joining the next phase of the programme should contact UnLtd on the contact details below for a full breakdown of how they can benefit from the world-leading support on offer.

Ends

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NOTES TO EDITORS

About SEE Change

With the support of HEFCE, SEE Change (Social Entrepreneurship in Education) has, since 2009, provided universities across England with a mixture of funding, technical support and mentoring to create and build effective and impactful ecosystems for social entrepreneurs to start and thrive.

The 3 key areas of focus for the coming year are:

Regional Programme – 20 partners are already on board to develop collaborative approaches to supporting social entrepreneurs and receive direct support from UnLtd, for both their delivery teams and social entrepreneurs, through this programme, comprising of: peer learning, tailored bespoke support and ecosystem-building at local, national and international levels.

Scale & Growth Programme – 5 of our most progressive partners are already on board to scale their knowledge, impact and resources to support High Potential Social Entrepreneurs, whilst accessing specialist expertise from the UnLtd teams and our partner network spanning the Social Investment, Procurement and broader Social Venture Scale & Growth landscape. Working as a cluster we are seeking to support the group and their award winners to achieve impact on an individual, national and international scale.

Phase 4 Strategic Partnership Development – via a call out to external agencies working across the Social Enterprise, Higher Education, leadership and innovation spectrums, we are delighted to be working with a minimum of 15 strategic partners to align support and resources to support our HE partners and their communities of social entrepreneurs. Partners include SEUK, Social Investment Business, NESTA, Impact Hubs, Future Cities, Student Hubs, HEFCE and more.

We are developing a short term and long term strategy and look forward to announcing developments in 2016 under the core themes of incubation, sector awareness raising and influencing, market building and championing universities as localised anchors of leadership, innovation and entrepreneurship for social impact and value.

About UnLtd

We are UnLtd. We want to see a world where people act to make it better. We reach out to find passionate, talented, resourceful people who are determined to tackle the key issues facing society. We call these people social entrepreneurs.

Since we began in 2002, we have given over 13,000 awards, direct and through partners, to social entrepreneurs to start well and thrive. We've developed a vibrant ecosystem of hundreds of supporters in the UK and across the globe. Today, UnLtd is at the heart of a thriving movement for good. Now, we're committed to helping social entrepreneurs to become a valued and vibrant part of society. That means using all our experience, insight and innovation to break down the barriers preventing social entrepreneurship from fulfilling its potential to change the UK for the better.

For more information about the support offered by UnLtd please go to www.UnLtd.org.uk

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