

State of Social Enterprise in Yorkshire and the Humber

November 2024

This paper sets out headline statistics on social enterprise in Yorkshire and the Humber, based on data from Social Enterprise UK's latest State of Social Enterprise (2023) research and wider evidence in their Social Enterprise Knowledge Centre.

Economic contribution



There are around **9,000** social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber, creating around **56,000** jobs for the region

They generate around **£61 million** in profit, re-investing **£52 million** into their social missions

These social enterprises generate around **£4bn** in turnover - equivalent to **3%** of regional GDP

Last year, **59%** developed a new product or service for their business to deliver, while **11%** reported developing a new product or service for the market



Financial performance



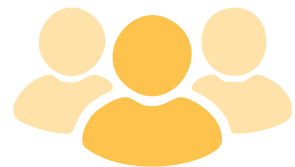
55% of social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber reported making a profit last financial year, while a further **22%** reported breaking even

66% reported their turnover had increased in the last 12 months, while a further **19%** reported their turnover had remained the same

Leadership

48% of social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber are majority-led by women

6% are majority-led by people from ethnic minority backgrounds



Mission and impact

52% social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber are operating within the most deprived areas of England



83% believe social and environmental friendliness are equally or more important than cost when buying goods and services



86% pay the real Living Wage to all staff members

62% have a target to reduce carbon emissions over the next three years

State of Social Enterprise in Yorkshire and the Humber

November 2024

Regional distinctions

Fewer start-ups

A smaller proportion of social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber have been operating for less than three years, compared to England overall. Only 22% of social enterprises in the region are under three years old, against a national average of 33%.

Public sector work and grants

Social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber are more likely to generate income through public, private and third sector trade - as well as trading with other social enterprises - compared to national averages.

However, a larger proportion of social enterprises report the public sector as their main source of income here than in England overall. The proportion who've seen the amount of paid work they deliver for the public sector increase in the last year is also higher in the region than the national average. Social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber are slightly more likely to receive funding from Local or Combined Authorities.

Social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber are more reliant on grant funding than other English regions. 67% of

social enterprises here applied for grant funding in the last 12 months, compared to the national average of 58%. Notably, 24% currently report using grant funding from government, which is twice the national average.

Turning to investment

While a slightly smaller proportion of social enterprises in Yorkshire and the Humber expect to increase their turnover in the next year, compared to England overall, those that do expect growth are turning to investment. 57% of social enterprises in the region plan to invest in research and development - more than double the national average of 23%. 43% also said they would seek general investment to boost growth, again well above the 33% average.

Affordable premises

Social enterprises across Yorkshire and the Humber are more likely to report financial barriers as impacting their sustainability and growth. However, the proportion that reported the availability or cost of suitable premises as a specific financial barrier was more than twice the national average.

For full details of the State of Social Enterprise 2023 research methodology, sponsors and partners, see www.socialenterprise.org.uk/social-enterprise-knowledge-centre/the-state-of-social-enterprise. Due to sample sizes, we have been unable to report on certain data in each of these regional reports. Thank you to all the social enterprises who have participated in Knowledge Centre data collection. Thank you to all the social enterprises who have participated in Knowledge Centre data collection. For any queries, contact research@socialenterprise.org.uk.

Case study - Sheffield Social Enterprise Network

Sheffield Social Enterprise Network (SSEN) is a member-led community hub that plays a critical role in raising the profile of the city's social enterprises at local, regional and national levels. Through its membership programme, partnerships, consultancy and events, SSEN brings together a community of social enterprises and supports them to drive positive social, environmental and economic impact across the city and wider region.

SSEN was created as a response to the phasing out of social enterprise business support contracts, due to central Government's business support simplification programme. In 2018 it became a Community Interest Company (CIC), enabling it to scale up the network, and led the application process to establish Sheffield as an official Social Enterprise Place.

Since achieving Place status, SSEN has played a leading role in a couple of regional social enterprise accelerator programmes - delivering a range of fully funded activity in the region including masterclasses, networking events, peer mentoring programmes, grants and specialist one-to-one consultancy support.

