

Autism Initiatives Scotland
the national charity for autism in Scotland

SOCIAL FIRMS for PEOPLE with AUTISM

- ❑ Funded by the Scottish Executive for 2 years
- ❑ Social Firms Coordinator
- ❑ On behalf of a group of autism support agencies
- ❑ Aims:
 - To develop Social Firms for people with autism
 - To help generic Social Firms be more accessible for people with ASD

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Partner Agencies:
 Autism Initiatives Scotland, NAS, SSA, INTOWORK, ARC (Autism Resource Centre), PASDA (Parents of Autistic Spectrum Adults), ELAS (Edinburgh and Lothians Asperger's Society)

Project background

- Partnership arising from the Number 6 (One Stop Shop for adults with AS)
- Funding from Scottish Government for 2 years (July 2007-June 2009)

Main objectives

- To help partner agencies develop Social Firms
- To support existing generic firms to be better equipped to employ people with ASD
- To establish good practice guidelines and networks to enable the work to continue

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Social Firms

- ❑ **A form of social enterprise business** developed to provide employment and training opportunities for people with disabilities and other disadvantages
- ❑ Aims to address social and economic exclusion
- ❑ In the staff team at least 25% of workers are disadvantaged
- ❑ 50% of turnover is earned through sales income from products or services
- ❑ All employees are paid a market wage
- ❑ Offers a higher level of support and flexibility than open or sheltered employment
- ❑ All employees have the same rights and obligations

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ASD Social Firms Coordinator - Key activities

- ❑ Support partner agencies to identify business opportunities and emerging social firms
- ❑ Develop a business plan for each partner agency
- ❑ Make links with existing social firms
- ❑ Compile models of ASD good practice in the workplace
- ❑ Make links with Social Firm and Social Enterprise support agencies
- ❑ Establish a steering group of partner agencies for the Social Firms Project
- ❑ Create an ASD Social Firms Network open to all autism support agencies in Scotland

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POTENTIAL SOCIAL FIRM DEVELOPMENTS

- ❑ Arts gallery project
- ❑ Hermitage Golf trust
- ❑ Business Acquisition (Bakery)
- ❑ Auchenuive Trees

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The gallery on the corner - Edinburgh
<http://www.thegalleryonthecorner.org.uk/>
 34 Northumberland Street / corner of Dundas Street

- Gallery space
- Retail and Art/ Craft apprenticeships
- Micro-business (crafts scrap recycling)







Creative activities are often compatible with occupational support for people with autism

Demand from service users for creative work, in small groups, inside, using IT, some customer-facing tasks

Business model provides varied tasks and activities

Business model provides various income streams underpinning sustainability







Bakery – Edinburgh

Business Acquisition

3 month secondment from Standard Life to undertake due diligence assessment (April-June 09)









Auchenhuive
Aberdeenshire







Hermitage Golf trust


Autism Ventures Scotland

A registered Scottish charity created to house our social firm businesses in Scotland (SC040747)

An independent board of trustees bring business expertise and encourage best practice

Each social firm will a steering group made of staff, beneficiaries, family/carers, industry specialists, stakeholders





Business development:

Social Firms Coordinator post – Enterprise Manager

- To lead the development and coordination of Social Firms for Autism Initiatives – (through Autism Ventures Scotland)
- To support Autism Initiatives to capitalise on other business opportunities.

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