

September 2011

Request for Practice Examples: Local Authority and Voluntary and Community Sector Social Finance Initiatives

Context

As part of its work in seeking to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families, and informed by the Cabinet Office strategy document 'Growing the Investment Market'¹, the Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services (C4EO) is urging local authorities and civic society organisations to share examples of:

local area arrangements which are engaging social finance intermediaries to improve children and young people's outcomes.

This is a complex area but, what we do know is that:

- Local areas have less money to commission the voluntary and community sector to provide services for children and young people.
- The funding base to deliver children's services is likely to become increasingly diverse over the next few months and years.
- The Big Society Bank has secured a significant amount of funding to invest in voluntary and community sector projects via intermediaries and will be an important lever for the delivery of children's services in localities.

C4EO is aware that some local areas have already begun to embrace the social finance model, successfully engaging with social finance intermediaries including venture philanthropists, social entrepreneurs, community-based organisations, charities, loan companies etc to improve outcomes and life chances for children and young people.

¹ HM Government (2011). *Growing the Social Investment Market: a Vision and Strategy*. [Online] http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/sites/default/files/resources/404970_SocialInvestmentMarket_acc.pdf

Request

We are keen to understand how local areas and/or the voluntary and community sector are working, or are planning on working, in this complex environment. We are interested in your experience of:

- Working with civic society organisations to improve outcomes for children, young people and families, or to deliver service improvements.
- Using investment funds to increase the supply of capital available to frontline social ventures, such as those supporting youth opportunities, financial inclusion (ensuring that everyone has access to and is able to use a range of financial goods and services), or the purchase of community assets.
- Working to ensure the viability and sustainability of social venture intermediaries by, for example, supporting intermediaries in completing investment readiness work or in providing capital to support them to make onward investments.
- Using investment funds to develop new investment vehicles (such as Social Impact Bonds) and/or to support the development of market infrastructure such as impact measurement, exchange platforms and investment portals.

Our intention is that, by sharing this information, you will enable C4EO to begin to draw a map of existing practice from which other local areas can benefit.

Any information you can provide in response to the above would be very gratefully received [by completing the C4EO emerging practice submission form](#) and emailing to C4EOTeam@nfer.ac.uk.

Many thanks for your support.

Christine Davies, CBE
Director, C4EO