



Name: Barbara Beaton

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Qualifications:

Institute of Leadership and Management [ILM] Level 5 Award Certificate in Social Enterprise Support
OCN Level 3 in Facilitation techniques

University of Sussex Certificate in Management of Voluntary and Community Organisations

Key skills: business planning, organisational and legal structures, facilitation, project planning and delivery, community participation.

Experience: Worked with Action in rural Sussex for 4 years

Geographical area: West Sussex

Previous positions

Barbara is the Social Enterprise and Project support officer for Action in rural Sussex, a charity that supports rural communities to become vibrant places in which to work and live. Barbara is also a qualified social enterprise adviser with knowledge and practical experience gained from many years working within the sector at local, regional and national level in a number of roles. Her experience includes managing a large legal advice service at Brighton Housing Trust, a major provider of public funded legal services in the region, delivery of multi-agency projects and national pilots connected with improving delivery of legal advice to hard to reach groups. She also worked at Age Concern England, the national charity for older people, providing advice in connection with the running and operation of that charity and local Age Concerns, and in a senior position at a London inner city law centre.

Experience:

Barbara has provided practical support to community projects for the past 4 years and as a Social Enterprise Business Advisor for the last 2 years, both in East and West Sussex. During that time Barbara has supported potential and existing social enterprises, enjoying the diversity of the sector and working with groups ranging from a community cookery initiative to development of a village based community hub.

Barbara also works regionally to promote and support social enterprise as part of the SE2 partnership. Current projects include the Better project, which is working with procurers, commissioners and social enterprises to develop the use of social impact measures, with SEASON, developing an adviser network for the region. Barbara has developed strong working relationships with business support agencies, adviser networks, and local county networks.

Way of Working:

Barbara seeks to work in a solution focussed way, which suits the needs of the business that she is supporting, and encourages a participative approach. Barbara has worked with many community projects supporting them from ideas to sustainable implementation. Barbara will work with a business to identify key issues and agree a realistic and practical plan of action for the future that can be followed in subsequent meetings. She can provide specific help in taking different aspects of that plan forward. Where other specialised expertise is required, Barbara will use her contacts to ensure appropriate signposting to other sources of help takes place.