

## Enterprise in Society Awards 2026: Award Categories, Guidance and Eligibility

**NB: You must complete a separate application for each category you wish to make a nomination for - this is to ensure your nomination has the best chance of success.**

### REMEMBER:

Your nomination should focus on how the work you do benefits society and its wider impact for Lancashire.

We ask independent judges to form an opinion of all the nominees within each category. **The judges may not know your organisation** and the content within your application is all they have to assess the most worthy winner of an award.

Make sure you tell them everything you want them to know! Tell them how you:

- ✓ Have made an impact and achieved your goals
- ✓ Increased or have sought opportunity/s to increase turnover and secure future sustainability i.e. new services developed, or contracts awarded
- ✓ Expanded or consolidated the business
- ✓ Considered the environment.

**Please email your completed form to [awards@selnet-uk.com](mailto:awards@selnet-uk.com) before the new closing date of 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at midnight. You will receive an email confirming your submission within two working days. If this is not received, please call the Selnet Office on 01772 200690.**

Category	What we are looking for:	What the Judges will look for:	Eligibility:
<p><b>Lancashire's NEW Social Enterprise of the Year</b></p>	<p>To recognise a newly established social enterprise in Lancashire that has shown exceptional promise, early achievements, and a strong commitment to delivering social or environmental impact.</p> <p>This award celebrates emerging organisations that are already making a difference and are poised for future growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A well-defined social or environmental mission.</li> <li>• Strong understanding of the need(s) being addressed.</li> <li>• Stories, testimonials, or case studies demonstrating positive change.</li> <li>• Feedback from beneficiaries, partners, or community stakeholders.</li> <li>• Ambition and Potential to become a significant and lasting part of Lancashire's social enterprise ecosystem.</li> </ul>	<p>The <b>organisation</b> must be a social enterprise based in Lancashire or delivering significant impact within Lancashire.</p> <p>Must have been formally established and trading for between 12 months and 3 years at the nomination deadline.</p> <p>Must demonstrate a clear social or environmental mission and show early evidence of impact, trading activity, or community benefit.</p>

<p><b>Small Social Enterprise of the Year</b></p>	<p>This award is to recognise a small social enterprise that is punching above its weight.</p> <p>Delivering strong social impact, sound business performance, and clear values, despite limited size and resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social / environmental impact</li> <li>• Business performance and sustainability</li> <li>• Leadership, culture and inclusion</li> <li>• Innovation, adaptability and local contribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual turnover: up to £1 million</li> <li>• Staff team: up to 30 employees (FTE or equivalent, including part-time)</li> <li>• Operates as a social enterprise.</li> <li>• Based in, or delivering a significant proportion of its work in, Lancashire and surrounding areas.</li> <li>• Has been trading for at least 12 months by the nomination deadline.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Enterprise Rising Star</b></p>	<p>This award will recognise a new and rapidly emerging social enterprise or an individual showing exceptional early leadership in the sector.</p> <p>The winner will be able to demonstrate outstanding promise, passion, and early achievements that indicate significant future impact in Lancashire’s social enterprise community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early social / environmental impact</li> <li>• Growth, innovation and future potential</li> <li>• Leadership, values and commitment</li> <li>• Local contribution and sector engagement.</li> </ul>	<p><b>For an Organisation</b> - established for between 12 months and 4 years at the nomination deadline and has a clear social or environmental mission embedded in its governance.</p> <p><b>For an Individual</b> - Must be working (or volunteering) within a Lancashire social enterprise, and has been in a leadership, founder, or key impact-driving role for less than 5 years.</p>
<p><b>Community Impact Award</b></p>	<p>This award recognises a social enterprise that has delivered outstanding, measurable, and meaningful benefits to its local community or communities in Lancashire. (e.g., wellbeing, inclusion, local economy).</p> <p>The winner will demonstrate deep community engagement, clear positive change, and a commitment to strengthening local wellbeing, resilience, and opportunity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrable community impact</li> <li>• Community engagement and co-production</li> <li>• Reach, accessibility and inclusion and a commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion.</li> </ul>	<p>The organisation must be a registered social enterprise and based in Lancashire or delivering significant impact within Lancashire communities.</p> <p>Must have been trading for at least 12 months at the nomination deadline.</p>

<p><b>Unsung Hero Award</b></p>	<p>This award celebrates an individual whose exceptional dedication, kindness, and hard work have made a significant difference within a Lancashire social enterprise or community often without seeking praise or recognition.</p> <p>This award honours those who consistently go above and beyond, quietly enabling others to thrive.</p>	<p>Exceptional Dedication and Commitment going above and beyond their formal role or expectations.</p> <p>Judges will consider the difference the nominee makes to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Colleagues, staff, or volunteers</li> <li>• Service users or beneficiaries</li> <li>• The wider community</li> <li>• The organisation’s culture and atmosphere.</li> </ul>	<p>The Individual nominated must hold a role (formal or informal) within a registered social enterprise based in Lancashire or delivering significant impact within Lancashire communities.</p> <p>This can be in any role, but their contribution should be significant and often overlooked.</p> <p>They must have contributed to the organisation or community for at least 6 months.</p>
<p><b>Volunteer of the Year!</b></p>	<p>This award celebrates an outstanding volunteer whose dedication, commitment, and positive contribution have made a significant impact within a Lancashire social enterprise.</p> <p>This award celebrates individuals who go above and beyond, embody social enterprise values, and help strengthen their community through their voluntary efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution and impact</li> <li>• Commitment and reliability</li> <li>• Compassion, respect, and inclusivity</li> <li>• Positive attitude, teamwork, and collaboration</li> <li>• Shown significant personal development through volunteering.</li> </ul>	<p>The <u>individual</u> nominated must be a volunteer, not a paid employee.</p> <p>They must volunteer within a Lancashire-based social enterprise or one delivering substantial work in Lancashire.</p> <p>They must have volunteered regularly for at least six months prior to nomination.</p> <p>Volunteers of any age can be nominated (with parental consent for under 18s).</p> <p>Organisations may nominate more than one volunteer, but each nomination should be distinct and compelling.</p>
<p><b>Tech for Good Award</b></p>	<p>To recognise a social enterprise that is using technology in an innovative, effective, and ethical way to create positive social or environmental change. This could include digital tools, software, data systems, assistive technologies, apps, platforms, devices, or any tech-enabled approach that improves lives or strengthens communities in Lancashire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social or environmental impact enabled by technology.</li> <li>• Judges will look for clear evidence that the technology has produced meaningful, measurable positive change.</li> <li>• Technology designed or adapted to be inclusive and accessible, especially for those facing digital, social, or physical barriers.</li> </ul>	<p>The organisation must be a social enterprise based in Lancashire or delivering significant impact within Lancashire, and trading for at least 12 months at the nomination deadline.</p> <p>The technology described must be actively in use (not just a concept or prototype).</p> <p>Both small-scale and large-scale tech solutions are welcome.</p>

<p><b>Trading for Good Award</b></p>	<p>This award will recognise a social enterprise that demonstrates excellence in trading, using commercial activity to drive significant social or environmental impact, while operating with strong values, sustainability, and community benefit in Lancashire.</p> <p>This award celebrates organisations that show what social enterprise does best “trading for good”.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong trading performance</li> <li>• Impact directly linked to trading activity (e.g., job creation, training opportunities, reinvested profits)</li> <li>• Clear alignment between trading activity and social enterprise values.</li> </ul>	<p>The organisation must be a registered social enterprise and based in Lancashire or delivering significant impact within Lancashire communities.</p> <p>Must have been trading for at least 12 months at the nomination deadline, and generate the majority of its income through trading, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selling products or services</li> <li>• Contracts or commissioned work</li> <li>• Memberships or paid programmes</li> </ul> <p>Trading activity must directly enable or enhance the organisation’s social/environmental mission.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration and Partnerships Across Public Services Award</b></p>	<p>To recognise a social enterprise that has delivered outstanding impact through effective collaboration with public sector partners.</p> <p>This award celebrates innovative, mutually beneficial partnerships that strengthen public services, improve outcomes for communities, and demonstrate the value of social enterprises as key delivery partners in Lancashire.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of the Partnership i.e. Shared vision, values, and goals</li> <li>• Clear, measurable impact that results from working together</li> <li>• Impact on Public Services and Communities Creative use of community strengths to complement public services.</li> </ul>	<p>The lead applicant must be a registered social enterprise and based in Lancashire or delivering significant impact within Lancashire communities. Partnerships may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-term or time-limited</li> <li>• Between two or more organisations</li> <li>• Formal or informal</li> </ul> <p>The partnership must have been active within the last 12–24 months and show clear, evidenced outcomes.</p>
<p><b>Leadership in Social Enterprise</b></p>	<p>Recognises an inspiring leader (CEO, founder, manager) who demonstrates exceptional vision, values, and impact.</p> <p>This award celebrates individuals whose leadership inspires others, strengthens their organisation, and contributes to positive social or environmental change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vision, strategy and purpose</li> <li>• Tangible improvements achieved under the nominee’s leadership i.e. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Model fairness, integrity, transparency, and accountability</li> <li>○ Promote equality, diversity, and inclusion</li> <li>○ Foster a positive, supportive workplace culture.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The nominee must hold a leadership role (formal or informal) within a registered social enterprise based in Lancashire or delivering significant impact within Lancashire communities.</p> <p>The leadership must relate to delivering the organisation’s social or environmental mission.</p> <p>Self-nominations and peer/staff nominations are both welcome.</p>

<p><b>20 Years a Social Enterprise Champion Award</b></p>	<p>This award is set to honour an individual who has made an outstanding, long-term contribution to the social enterprise movement in Lancashire over the past 20 years.</p> <p><b>This special anniversary</b> award celebrates people who have consistently championed social enterprise, strengthened the ecosystem, inspired others, and created lasting positive change.</p> <p>This is an award for those who have truly shaped the sector.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-Term Contribution and Commitment i.e. Sustained and meaningful contribution over 10–20 years</li> <li>• Influence, leadership and sector impact</li> <li>• Values, integrity and championing social enterprise.</li> </ul>	<p>The nominee must have contributed to Lancashire’s <b>social enterprise sector for at least 10 years</b>, with clear influence or involvement spanning up to 20 years.</p> <p>Their work may have taken place within one or multiple organisations. They may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founders or pioneers</li> <li>• Leaders or senior staff</li> <li>• Community innovators</li> <li>• Advocates, policymakers, or ecosystem builders</li> <li>• Champions working across multiple networks or partnerships</li> </ul> <p>Nominee must demonstrate <b>clear, long-term commitment</b> to strengthening social enterprise in Lancashire.</p> <p>Both self-nominations and third-party nominations are welcome.</p>
<p><b>Lancashire’s Social Enterprise of the year 2026</b></p>	<p>To recognise a long-established Lancashire social enterprise that has demonstrated exceptional, sustained impact over 10 to 20 years.</p> <p>This award honours organisations that have consistently delivered on their mission, strengthened communities, shown resilience and innovation, and contributed significantly to the development of Lancashire’s social enterprise sector.</p> <p>This is the highest organisational honour of the event.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustained social or environmental impact over 10–20 Years.</li> <li>• Organisational resilience, growth and sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Financial health and sustainability over a long period</li> <li>○ Ability to navigate challenges (e.g., economic downturns, policy changes, community needs)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Leadership, culture and social enterprise values, contributing to Lancashire’s social enterprise ecosystem.</li> </ul>	<p>The organisation must be a mission-led, reinvesting social enterprise.</p> <p>Must be based in Lancashire or have delivered major continuous impact in Lancashire communities.</p> <p>Must have been established and trading for at least 10 years, with demonstrable contribution over 10–20 years.</p> <p>Must evidence clear and sustained social or environmental impact throughout its history.</p>

For further questions, please call the Selnet Office on 01772 200690 or email [awards@selnet-uk.com](mailto:awards@selnet-uk.com).

Visit [www.selnet-uk.com/awards/](http://www.selnet-uk.com/awards/) for information about Selnet’s 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Awards Celebration on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026.