

**SOCIAL FIRMS WALES**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Social Firms Wales** is the National Support Agency for Social Firm development across Wales. It is committed to the creation of employment opportunities for disadvantaged people through the development and support of Social Firms in Wales.

**What is a Social Firm?**

A Social Firm is a business committed to creating employment and training opportunities for people within its organisation who are furthest from the labour market. It is one form of Social Enterprise, and subscribes to the three values of Enterprise, Employment and Empowerment.

Combining commercial orientation with a social mission, Social Firms offer a supportive work place for people who are traditionally discriminated against in terms of gaining employment, including:

* Disability
* Managing mental health issues
* Ex-offenders
* Homelessness
* Ex-substance misuse

They are not segregated workplaces - Ideally, around 25-50% of the workforce will have some recognised disability or disadvantage, but it will be in an environment of mixed ability, reflective of the society we live in. They are also real commercial businesses, aiming to generate at least 50% of their income through trading, with as little possible dependency on government or grant subsidy.

A Social Firm should aim to empower individuals to be the best they can - to command equal pay, equal right and to progress and improve themselves, whatever their background.

**Social Firms Wales offer 4 categories of membership:**

**Full Membership**

Open for emerging, developing and full Social Firms

**Associate Membership**

Open for those with an interest in the Social Firm model of social enterprise:

* Social Enterprise – emerging, developing and established
* Individuals

**Public Sector Membership**

Open for Public Sector bodies with an interest in the Social Firm model of social enterprise

**Corporate Membership – by invitation only**

Open for private organisations that support the work of Social Firms Wales with an interest in the Social Firm model of social enterprise

**Your support is needed to actively support and help grow the number of Social Firms in
Wales and the United Kingdom**

**APPLICATION FOR**

**SOCIAL FIRMS WALES MEMBERSHIP**

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| **Organisation Name:**  |
| Contact Name:  | Position within the Organisation:  |
| Address including Postcode:  |
| Telephone Number:  |
| Mobile Number:  |
| Email Address :  |
| Website:  |
| Twitter :  |
| Registered Company Number :  |
| Registered Charity Number *if applicable:* |
| Year Organisation started trading:  |
| Type of Business:  |
| **Organisations Legal Structure**  | ***Indicate below as appropriate*** |
| Company Limited by Guarantee |  |
| Company Limited by Shares |  |
| CIC – Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee |  |
| CIC – Community Interest Company Limited by Shares |  |
| Registered Charity |  |
| Charitable Company |  |
| Other – please specify  |  |
| **Employees** |
| Total number of Full Time Paid (Minimum wage or above)Employees: |
| Total number of Full Time Paid (Minimum wage or above) Employees from a disadvantaged background, as described above: |
| Total number of Part Time Paid (Minimum wage or above) Employees: |
| Total number of Part Time Paid (Minimum wage or above) Employees from a disadvantaged background, as described above: |
| Total number of other types of Paid (Minimum wage or above)employees: |
| Total number of other types Paid (Minimum wage or above) employees from a disadvantaged background, as described above: |

|  |
| --- |
| **Please tick one statement** |
| I am a developing Social Firm |  |
| I already manage a Social Firm |  |
| I am interested in Social Firm development |  |
| **Type of Membership Requiredplease tick one box**  |
| 1. Full Membership |  |
| 2. Public Sector Membership |  |
| 3. Associate Membership |  |
| 4. Corporate Membership |  |

**MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS:**

1. Raise the awareness of the Social Firm model of social enterprise
2. Support to establish Social Firms across Wales
3. Provide support towards the growth of Social Firms
4. Policy representation and effective lobbying for the Social Firm sector with the National Assembly for Wales and the Welsh Government
5. Provide a network for Social Firms to share experiences, best practice, and showcase good examples
6. Consult with our members on issues encountered and support best option solutions
7. Map the Social Firm sector in Wales to highlight progress, growth and barriers experienced
8. Regular newsletter circulating information of benefit to the Social Firm sector
9. National campaigning on behalf of Social Firms in Wales
10. Entry in our on-line directory of Social Firms in Wales
11. Use of Social Firms Wales logo on your organisations literature

**There is no cost for membership**

The value of our membership is not in the £’s but our members themselves

**Please complete application for membership and forward to:**

E-mail: members@socialfirmswales.co.uk

Post to: PO Box 85, Porthcawl, Mid Glamorgan, CF36 9BP