

PRESS RELEASE

27 June 2008

Nurturing New Opportunities for New Communities

Established by Novas Scarman Group East Midlands, NCISE (New Communities In Social Enterprise) is a new initiative that has a direct purpose of developing the resources, strategic inclusion and emergence of New Communities In Social Enterprise activity across the East Midlands.

Initially funded by Capacity Builders and now with a further two years funding to establish it as an independent organisation, NCISE will be scaled up to channel the often untapped high skills, energy and enthusiasm of new communities into new social enterprise activity.

With a regional infrastructure representing four (soon to be five) local area networks and a current membership of 60 new community organisations, it has a direct aim of developing the hidden social enterprise potential of New Communities across the East Midlands. In achieving this, alongside providing social enterprise awareness training, advice and guidance to New Communities, it will also nurture new opportunities as it partners with local, regional and national third sector networks giving a first hand understanding of their social enterprise needs and potential contribution in the field of social enterprise.

Underlying this initiative is also the much-needed employment and education opportunities it will promote, allowing NCISE to comprehensively nurture new opportunities for new communities.

Maria Donoghue-Mills, Co-Group Chief Executive/Founder of the Novas Scarman Group, says,

“NCISE is a fantastic initiative which will unlock and develop the hidden social enterprise potential of people from New Communities. Not only will we work together with people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, the initiative will assist them to contribute to meet a wide array of community needs through social enterprise services, and it will also further open their culture skills and talents to the wider community. “

The NCISE website will be open in July 08 when it can be visited on www.ncise.org.uk

ENDS

Press contact:

Alexandra Pryce
Marketing & Communications Manager
020 7424 3060
alexandra.pryce@novas.org

For further information please contact Anna Chang or Julia Walter at the Novas Scarman Group East Midlands office on: 0115 9484600

For further information on the work of Novas Scarman Group please visit www.novasscarman.org.

NOTES TO EDITOR

The **Novas Scarman Group** is major social justice charity at the cutting edge of tackling social disadvantage through social enterprise, innovation and positive impact.

Novas Scarman works at a local level to empower people and communities by creating opportunities for positive change through personalised support and development, pathways into work and learning, inclusive local decision making and change programmes, and releasing enterprise and cultural expression.

We bring communities together by enabling a voice for those often not heard or marginalised, to be at the heart of our communities, and we aim to become one of the world's most influential and effective catalysts for social justice, inclusion and diversity.

Three organisations – Novas Group, PATH and Scarman Trust – merged in December 2007 to create the Novas Scarman Group, representing a joining together of shared values in order to facilitate social justice and inclusion, diversity and cohesion.

The organisation has four core activities:

- Community support services serving the most disadvantaged communities
- Clusters of social enterprises based in Contemporary Urban Centres
- Nation-wide programmes of learning and inclusive pathways to work
- Campaigning and policy advocacy work – “connecting the streets with the corridors of power”

In October 2007 Maria Donoghue-Mills, Co-Group Chief Executive/Founder of the Novas Scarman Group, was appointed as a Social Enterprise Ambassador as a key part of the Government's Social Enterprise Action Plan, which was launched last year by then Chancellor Gordon Brown. The programme is funded by the Cabinet Office and led by the Social Enterprise Coalition.