



Deloitte UK: Social Innovation Pioneers

Supporting high performing social enterprises to grow and become investment ready

Project details

Origins: Deloitte UK launched the Social Innovation Pioneers in 2012 to help social businesses overcome their business challenges enabling them to grow to scale and become investment-ready.

Design: High performing social enterprises are selected to receive a package of support through a two-stage application and assessment process. Deloitte professionals are engaged in the review process, supported by external experts from the social enterprise sector. Successful Pioneers are assigned a Deloitte relationship team to manage strategic, tailored pro bono and/ or volunteer support over a 12 month period. The program invests over £1 million (US\$1.5 millions) each year in the Pioneers.

Scope: From 2012 to 2015, more than 2,000 Deloitte UK people provided more than 15,000 hours of professional support through volunteering and delivered more than 50 pro bono projects. Read more on the projects supported [here](#).

Professional skills: Deloitte UK's Social Innovation Pioneers provides a unique opportunity for Deloitte professionals to contribute their skills and expertise, and engage in meaningful projects that will have a lasting impact in their communities.

Case study

The Deloitte UK Social Innovation Pioneers program supports socially innovative businesses, providing them with a package of support to help them mainstream, go to scale, and become investment-ready by using Deloitte's core skills and capabilities. The package of support includes a team of Deloitte professionals and a relationship director for each of the Pioneers, a series of workshops, one-on-one support throughout the year, and targeted pro bono projects designed to help social enterprises meet their business goals.

Since its inception in 2012, the Pioneers program has benefitted from high engagement of social businesses in the UK, Deloitte professionals, and strong leadership support. Social Enterprise UK, an organization focused on helping social businesses grow, determined through an independent evaluation that the 58 businesses supported by the program have created more than 200 new jobs to date and realized annual revenue increases of 38 percent. More than a third of the organizations have become suppliers or cooperative business partners with Deloitte UK. This has increased the diversity of its supply chain, widened access to talent recruitment, and helped it create innovative, client service solutions.



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Ben Allen
Founder and CEO, Oomph!

The Program has engaged more than 2,000 professionals who have contributed more than 15,000 hours through volunteering and pro bono work, providing strategy advice, financial planning reviews, digital support, organizational redesign, analytics and tax advice. The Program was also awarded the Prime Minister's Big Society Award in 2013 in recognition of its distinctive support to social enterprises in the UK, and therefore its contribution to the community.

"Taking up the role of relationship manager for the Social Innovation Pioneers program was one of the most inspirational and developmental activities I have ever undertaken at Deloitte. The role empowered me to take on a lead client relationship for my Pioneer, The Brightside Trust. I became their trusted advisor and led the development of a client service plan, managed key relationships, organized and directed a broad team of people to support them whilst at the same time building my own eminence in the social enterprise and education sectors." - Janet McGuigan, Senior Manager, Deloitte Consulting UK

To increase its social impact, and become more targeted with outcomes for the program, Deloitte UK focused its fourth edition in 2015 on one priority social issue – building employment and skills opportunities. This focused approach has enabled the UK firm to select 11 Pioneers with whom Deloitte teams will be working collaboratively for a full year.

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To learn more about Deloitte UK's Social Innovation Pioneers, [click here](#).

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