



social businesses  
and charities

## Press Release

2 March 2011

### **BIG LIFE GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE WINS SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS LEADER OF THE YEAR FOR ENGLAND**

Fay Selvan, Chief Executive of The Big Life group of social businesses and charities, has been named as 'Social Enterprise Leader of the year for England' by the Social Enterprise Awards.

Fay, who has been Chief Executive of The Big Life group since its creation in 2002, fought against strong competition in the Social Enterprise Leader of the Year category to win the title and will now go through to the UK finals being held on 30 March at The O2 in London.

The Big Life group works across the North of England providing support and opportunities to help people overcome barriers and change their lives. This includes producing and distributing The Big Issue in the North magazine, providing training and employment to people excluded from the labour market, managing 8 community resource centres, delivering primary health and social care services, community mental health services, supported housing and childcare in deprived communities.

On winning the award she said: "I'm really honored to have won this award -it's a challenging time for social enterprise at the moment. I'm constantly inspired by the people I work with, both staff showing their ongoing commitment and the people using our services who overcome real barriers and change their lives"

Peter Holbrook, CEO of the Social Enterprise Coalition, said: "The judging panel was blown away by the work being done every day by individuals and organisations in the movement, and by the quality of the applications. The awards go from strength to strength in showcasing what social enterprise has to offer, whether turning people's lives around or looking after the planet."

## Ends

To arrange an interview with Fay Selvan or for more information about The Big Life group, please contact Communications Manager Emma Eaton on 0161 848 2424 or email [emma.eaton@thebiglifegroup.com](mailto:emma.eaton@thebiglifegroup.com).

Notes to Editors

### **What are social enterprises?**

There are 62,000 social enterprises in the UK, contributing over £20 billion to the economy and employing nearly a million people. Social enterprises are businesses, but exist first and foremost to make a positive difference to society or the environment. Profits are reinvested rather than given to shareholders and owners. They operate in almost every industry in Britain, from health and social care to renewable energy, from retail to recycling, from employment to sport, from housing to education.

The awards are organised by the Social Enterprise Coalition (SEC), the national membership body for social enterprise.

The Social Enterprise Coalition ([www.socialenterprise.org.uk](http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk)) is the UK's national body for social enterprise. The Coalition represents a wide range of social enterprises, regional and national support networks and other related organisations. We work with our members to inform the national policy agenda, showcase the benefits of social enterprise, and share best practice.

Social enterprises are businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purposes in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners. There are 62,000 social enterprises in the UK, contributing over £20 billion to the economy and employing nearly a million people.

For more information, please contact the Social Enterprise Coalition press office on 020 7793 2286 / 2318.